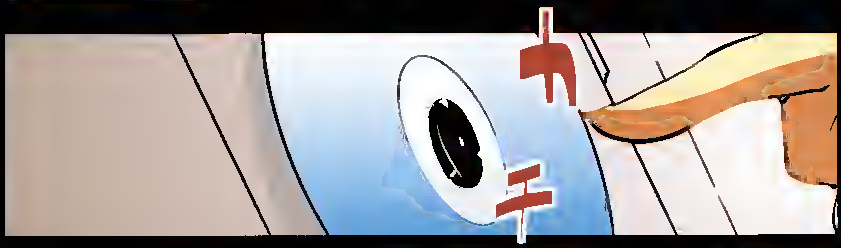
ONE-TIME BATTLE RUNNER



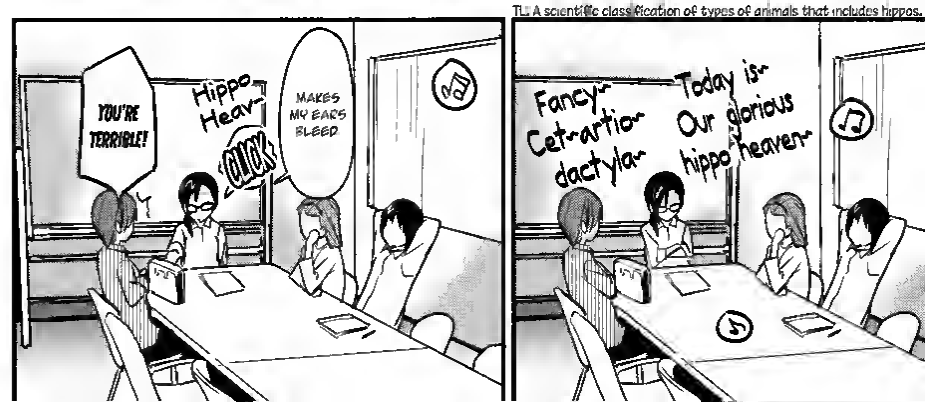
CHAPTER 26
ONE-TIME BATTLE RUNNER

"I'M LOVING YUTAKA'S NEW SONG! I'VE ALREADY PRE-ORDERED IT!
"YUTAKA'S NEW SONG IS SO BEAUTIFUL IT SOUNDS LIKE AN ANGEL SLIDING DOWN A RAINBOW!"
"THE NEW SONG IS GOD-LIKE! OH, AND WHAT COLOR ARE YOUR PANTIES?"
If you come near~
a hippo's no-no zone~
—IS IT REALLY THAT GOOD?
Stop stop!
WELL, LET'S JUST FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE OF YUTAKA RELEASING A NEW SONG

leave that be.
WELL, LET'S JUST
OTHER THAN CD SALES, WHAT SHOULD WE BE FOCUSING ON?
HMM...
FAIR ENOUGH.
IF THE SONG TAKES OFF AND WE GET MORE LISTENERS, THAT WOULD BE AMAZING.
INDEED
nod
THE NUMBER OF LISTENERS
LUCKILY FOR US, THE RELEASE OF HER SINGLE AND SPECIAL WEEK COINCIDE.

AND WHAT IS SPECIAL WEEK?
IT'S THE WEEK WHEN PROGRAM LISTENER RATES ARE TALLIED.
AS THIS USUALLY ONLY HAPPENS ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS, PROGRAMS ARE KNOWN TO DO SPECIAL GIFTING EVENTS AND WHATNOT
IN ORDER TO INCREASE THEIR VIEWERSHIP.
IN-DEED.
WHO WAS THAT EXPLANATION DIRECTED TO...?

TL: A scientific classification of types of animals that includes hippos.



HIPPO
HIPPO
KAIEDA -SENPAI?
びくっ
Hmm Hmm
EERRM
J-JUST SOME MOROCCAN FOLK MUSIC.
WHAT SONG ARE YOU HUMMING?
SPECIAL WEEK IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
Ace

Right in time for Dokkyun~★ Hippo Heaven's release!
As such, our staff have prepared a special event to celebrate the occasion.
Santa Fe
HERE'S THE SCRIPT.
Woah. Looks like one of the staff has just brought something into the recording room.
ガチャ
What is this...

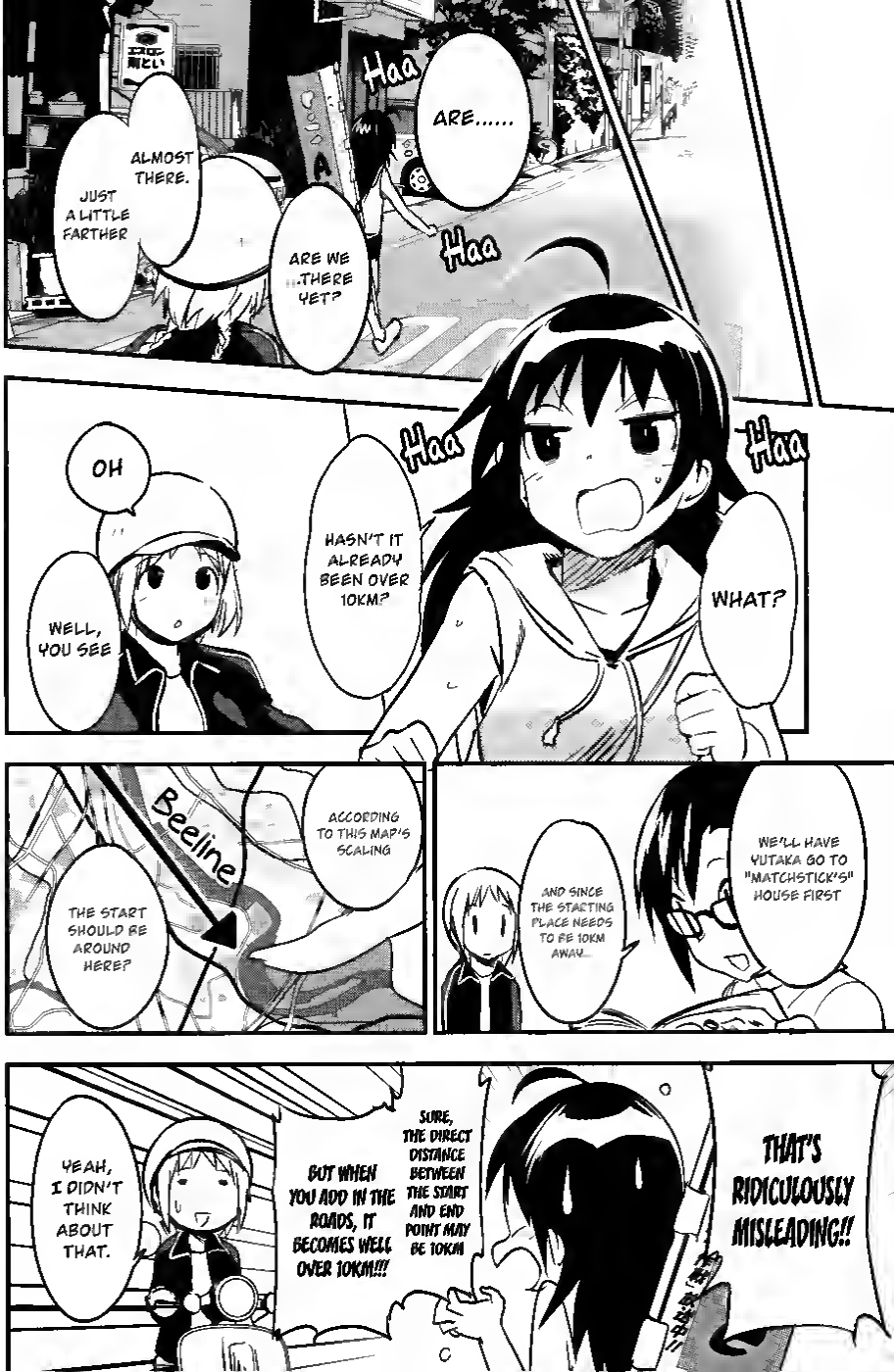
THE THEME:
NEW SINGLE 100K DELIVERY SERVICE MARATHON SPECIAL!!!!
This can't be good.
Our goal is to sell 100k CDs,
and for the special, I, Koriuchi Yutaka will be running 100 km to personally deliver autographed CDs to my listeners..
GEH

Please fax or message us for a chance to participate.

As I'll be travelling throughout the country, public transportation is allowed, but I'll be running 10km for each delivery!
Until next week's show, I will personally deliver copies to ten listeners.
One
Two
Three
Four
ラジオ
918KHZ
Ace
CD

We'll be recording the present-giving portions of the event, which will be aired during the special.
Seven
Eight
WISH ME LUCK? PLEASE...
The distance it'll take to reach ten people amounts to 100km. Wish me luck!
Five
Six

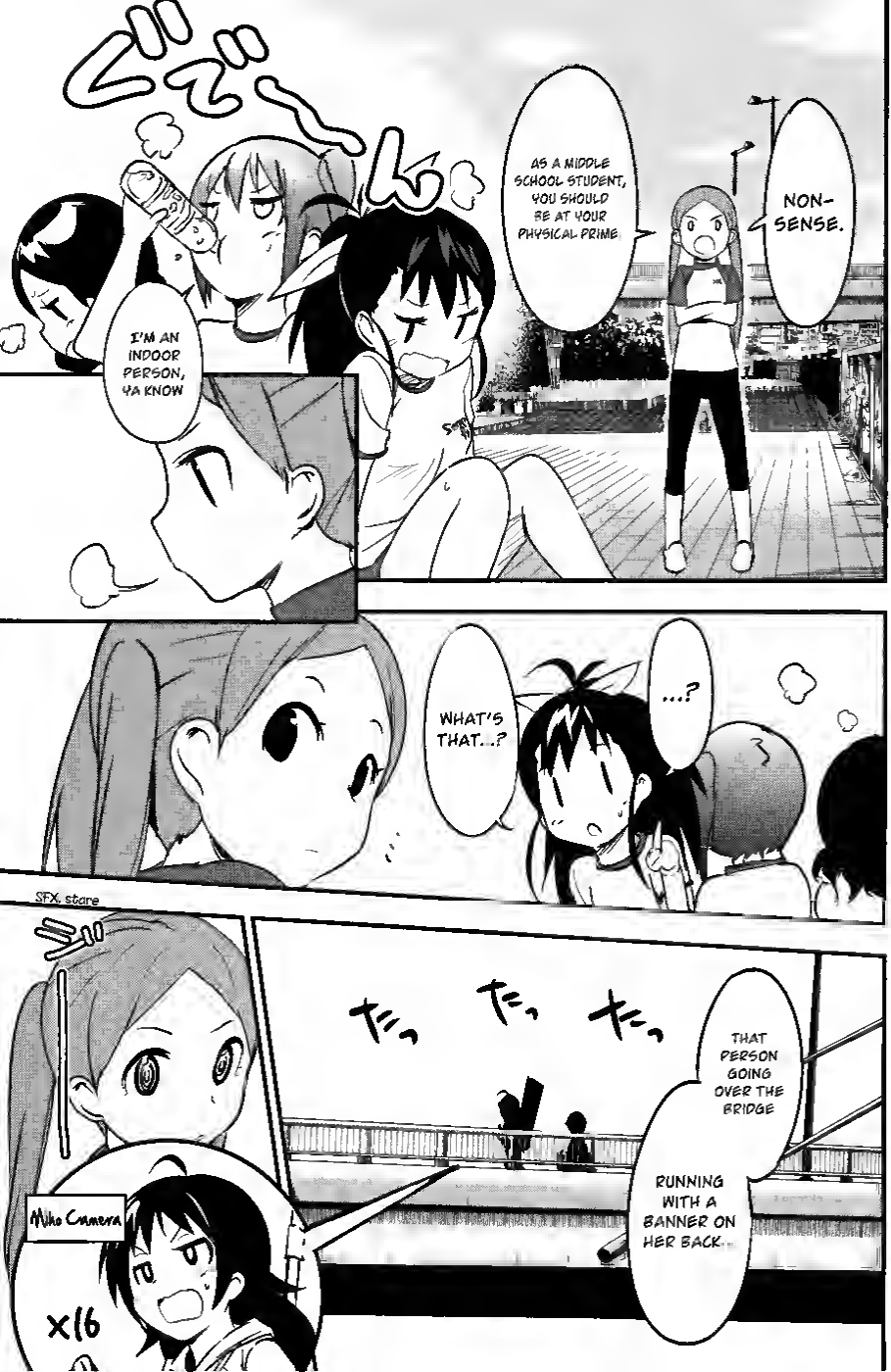
SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS RUN TO HIS HOUSE
It looks ridiculous
TAKI-SAN SAID IT WAS A GOOD ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CD
CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SIGN?
ラジオ Ace
CD 発売！
BUT THE NAME OF THE RADIO STATION STANDS OUT WAY MORE...
YOU CAN DO IT, YUTAKA-SAN!
WELL, ANYWAY
HERE WE GO!
ざっ
だっ
だっ
だっ
ブォ


Haa
ARE.....
Haa
ARE WE ...THERE YET?
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER
ALMOST THERE.
Haa
Haa
WHAT?
HASN'T IT ALREADY BEEN OVER 10KM?
OH
WELL, YOU SEE
WE'LL HAVE YUTAKA GO TO "MATCHSTICK'S" HOUSE FIRST
AND SINCE THE STARTING PLACE NEEDS TO BE 10KM AWAY...
ACCORDING TO THIS MAP'S SCALING
Beeline
THE START SHOULD BE AROUND HERE?
THAT'S RIDICULOUSLY MISLEADING!!
SURE, THE DIRECT DISTANCE BETWEEN THE START AND END POINT MAY BE 10KM
BUT WHEN YOU ADD IN THE ROADS, IT BECOMES WELL OVER 10KM!!!
YEAH, I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT.

IS ANYONE HOME?
WOAH, YOU REALLY CAME.
MATCH-STICK-SAN?
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY PROGRAM.
I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD BUY ANOTHER CD ON YOUR OWN AS WELL
A-ALRIGHT...
THAT'S ONE DOWN...
I FEEL LIKE A PART OF MY SOUL JUST DIED.
KEEP FIGHTING, YUTAKA-SAN!

SENPAI SAID THAT
BEING AN IDOL IS ALL ABOUT PHYSICAL ENDURANCE.
SO DON'T COMPLAIN!!
DO WE HAVE TO GO JOGGING
UNTIL WE BECOME IDOLS?
WHY
Semper

YOU'RE ...TOO FAST.
SENPAI...
YOU NEED TO PUT MORE RHYTHM INTO YOUR STEP!
TOO SLOW!


ぐぅ～～ん
I'M AN INDOOR PERSON, YA KNOW
AS A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT, YOU SHOULD BE AT YOUR PHYSICAL PRIME.
NON-SENSE.
WHAT'S THAT..?
...?
SFX: stare
THAT PERSON GOING OVER THE BRIDGE
RUNNING WITH A BANNER ON HER BACK...
だっ だっ だっ
Miko Camera
x16

WAIT HERE.
HOLY-!!
KAIEDA MIHO!?
Haa
LET ME GUESS, YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT RADIO SPECIAL I HEARD ABOUT
YOU'RE WELL INFORMED
This
WHY IS IT THAT TRYING TO AVOID YOU NEVER SEEMS TO WORK?
HEH... I KNOW, RIGHT?
WE CROSS PATHS MORE THAN YOU KNOW
WELL I'M TRAINING SOME NEWBIES RIGHT NOW
It's mine!
Give it to me!
AND YOU...?

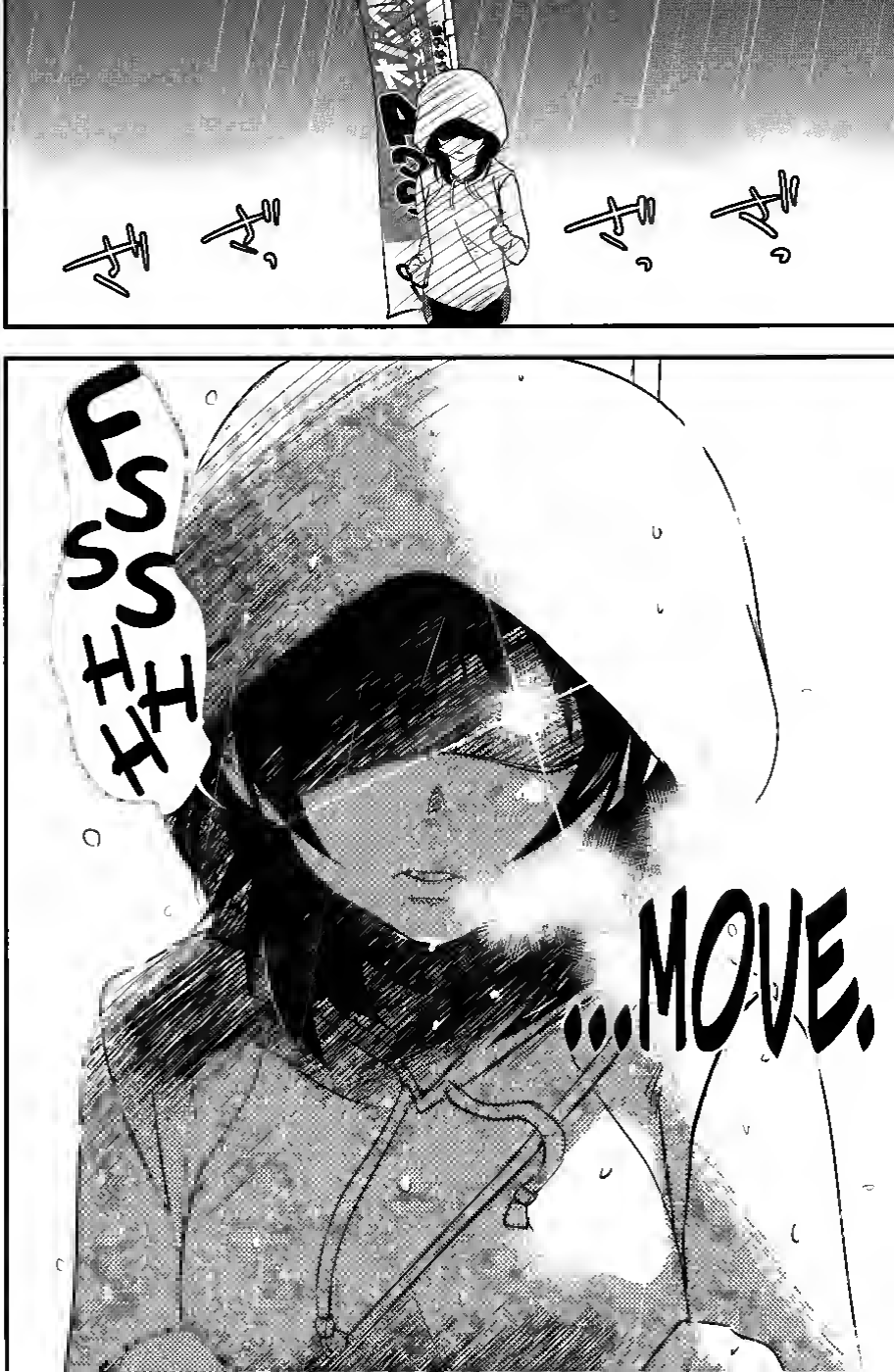
H-HEH
WELL I HOPE YOUR CD SELLS WELL
...WANT.
MAYBE YOU'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH ME IN THE RANKINGS LIKE YOU USED TO
BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING THAT YOU'RE GOING TO WIN ANYWAY
OF COURSE!
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT A CD AND A PEN.
clench
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GET IN YOUR WAY, SO OFF YOU GO
YUP.
BYE.

ピーポー
「海も白かセーロル不等
ピーポー
ピーポー
ピーポー

I WAS WORRIED BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T SEEM TOO ENTHUSIASTIC AT FIRST...
BUT SHE'S DELIVERING THE GIFTS AT A GREAT PACE.
HEHE.
THAT'S 6 DOWN
List
ABOUT THAT
YUTAKA IS...
YOU SEE.

MOVING MY BODY IS WONDERFUL...
パァァ
RUNNING IS WONDERFUL..
IT'S LIKE SHE WOKE UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED
SHE'S ACTING LIKE SHE'S AIMING TO RUN TO AMERICA OR SOMETHING...
THAT'S GREAT, ACTUALLY.
THEN FOR TOMORROW, CAN YOU DELIVER
TO HERE, HERE AND HERE?
I AM THE WIND...

LIVE
AND HERE'S OOTAKE-SAN, LIVE FROM THE MARTIAL ARTS HALL.
RIGHTO.
WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE, TOKUMITSU-SAN HAS ONCE AGAIN SET OUT ON HIS JOURNEY!
THE RAIN IS STILL POURING, BUT TOKUMITSU HAS REASSURED US THAT HE WANTS TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL DURING THE BROADCAST!
YOU CAN SEE TOKUMITSU-SAN WAVING TO HIS FANS CHEERING HIM ON FROM THE SIDELINES—
You can do it~
!?
さいわ


ザァ
ザァ
ザァ

ざっ
ざっ
ざっ
ざっ
ざっ
ラジオ
Ace
...!!
WHAT WAS THAT.
TERRIFYING
Ace
EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN~
BUT SHE'S ALREADY RUN WELL OVER 100KM...
THEN HOW ABOUT WE TRY HAVING HER RUN CROSS COUNTRY?
UMMM...

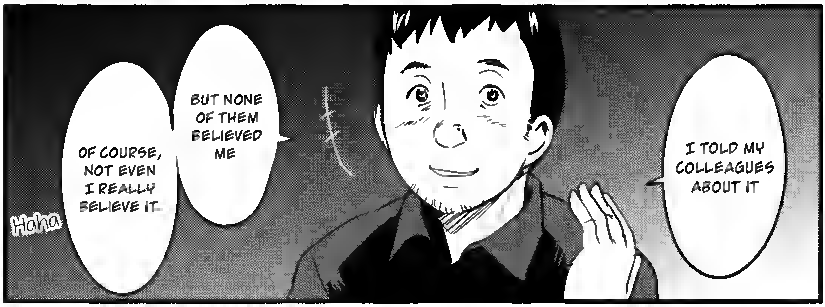
FUJI FIRE-POWER REVIEW
BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE TRAINED WITH LIVE AMMUNITION
UHH...
...WHAT?
WE'VE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM HEADQUARTERS TO BEGIN THE EXERCISE.
ROGER. COMMENCING EXERCISE.
ARE THOSE PEOPLE...? NO WAY...
AH-64 FIRE!!
Ah-

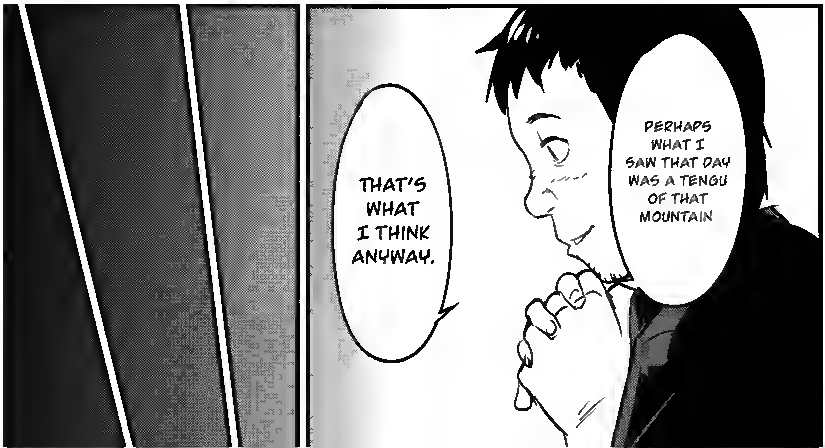
ドゥン
トリ
YU-
YUTAKA
-SAAAN!!!!

NORTHERN ALPS: MT. YARI
THANK GOD, YOU'RE ALIVE!
HEY! IT'S KATOU -SAN
Haa
Haa

AMATEUR CLIMBER KATOU BUNICHIROU TALKS ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE ON MT. YARI THAT FATEFUL DAY.
WELL...
I'VE CLIMBED YARI MANY TIMES, BUT I'VE NEVER TAKEN THE MOUNTAIN LIGHTLY
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE WEATHER CHANGED SO SUDDENLY ON ME
I COULD BARELY SEE MY HAND IN FRONT OF MY FACE
BY THE TIME I'D PLANNED OUT A SAFE ROUTE NIGHT HAD LONG SINCE FALLEN
BEING THAT I WAS ON NORTH KAMA RIDGE I HAD TO TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION
AND RIGHT AS I THOUGHT, THIS IS THE END, ISN'T IT?
THAT WAS WHEN I SAW...
渋滞
曲がり

Yutaka
-saaan

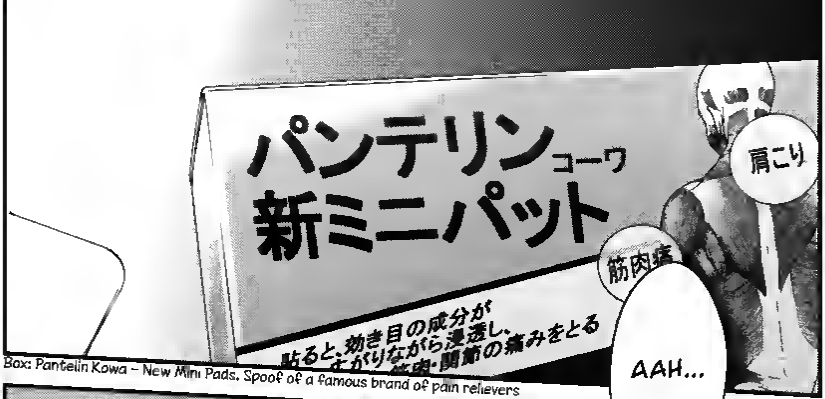

I TOLD MY COLLEAGUES ABOUT IT
BUT NONE OF THEM BELIEVED ME
OF COURSE, NOT EVEN I REALLY BELIEVE IT.
Haha


PERHAPS WHAT I SAW THAT DAY WAS A TENGU OF THAT MOUNTAIN
THAT'S WHAT I THINK ANYWAY.

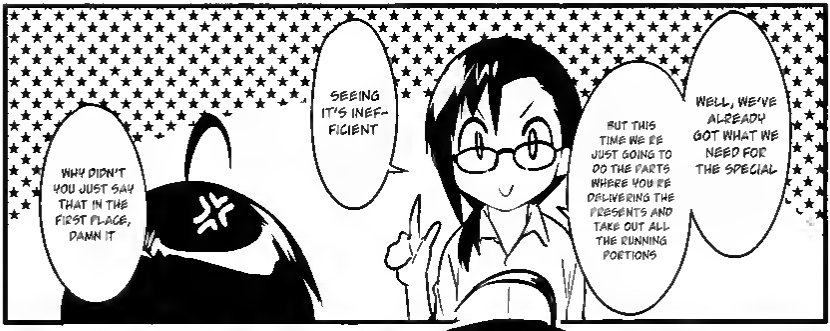
DING DONG
EEEEEEK!!
HORIUCHI YUTAKA...
PRESENT...
HERE...
NEXT...
WHERE NEXT...
MUST DELIVER SOON...
YUTAKA -SAN!
MUST KEEP RUNNING...
YUTAKA -SAN!
WAIT!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN ANYMORE!!!
IT'S OKAY!!!
IT'S OVER NOW.....!!!
新曲CD

YOU'VE FINISHED DELIVERING ALL THE PRESENTS.
SO
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN ANYMORE.
I DON'T
HAVE TO RUN ANY-MORE...
YUTAKA -SAAAN

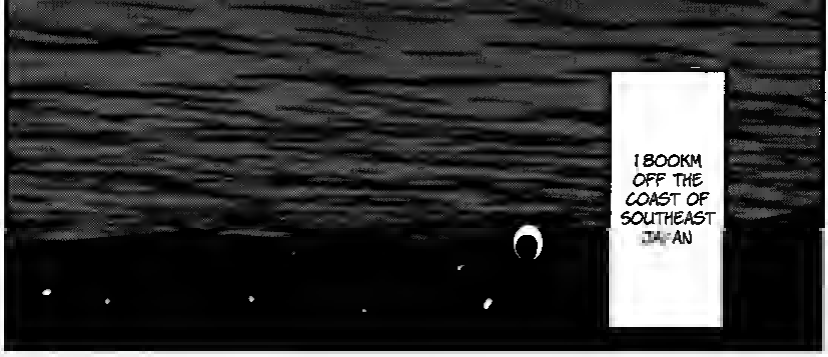


Box: Pantelin Kowa – New Mini Pads. Spoof of a famous brand of pain relievers


WELL, WE'VE ALREADY GOT WHAT WE NEED FOR THE SPECIAL
BUT THIS TIME WE'RE JUST GOING TO DO THE PARTS WHERE YOU'RE DELIVERING THE PRESENTS AND TAKE OUT ALL THE RUNNING PORTIONS
SEEING IT'S INEFFICIENT
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE, DAMN IT

ANYWAY, THAT'D BE GREAT.
AT THE RATE THINGS WERE GOING, I MIGHT HAVE HAD TO DELIVER SOMETHING TO THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN

MEAN-WHILE



CHAPTER 26 END

YUTAKA
-SAAAN!
YU-

[オー・エー]

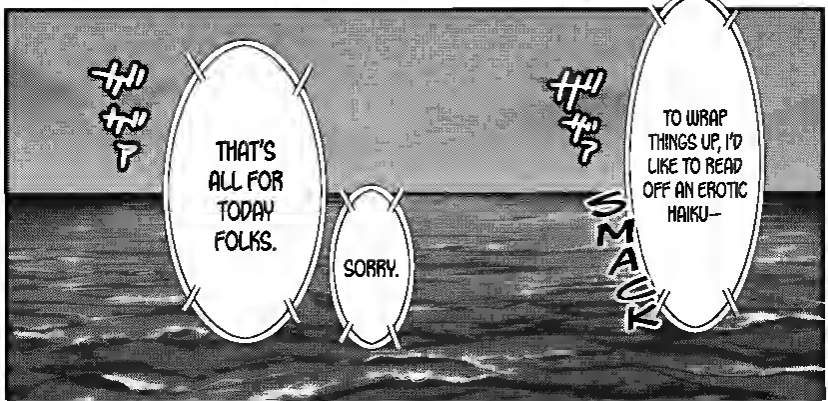
CHAPTER 27 Silent Service

WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S A RADIO ACE VERIFICATION CARD.
VERI-FICATION CARD?
YOU DON'T KNOW?
FTR

LISTENERS FIRSTLY SEND US A DETAILED REPORT CALLED A RECEIVING REPORT, OR RR FOR SHORT.
Some people call them verification letters
IT'S ESSENTIALLY A DOCUMENT LISTING WHERE THEY WERE ABLE TO LISTEN TO OUR STATION.

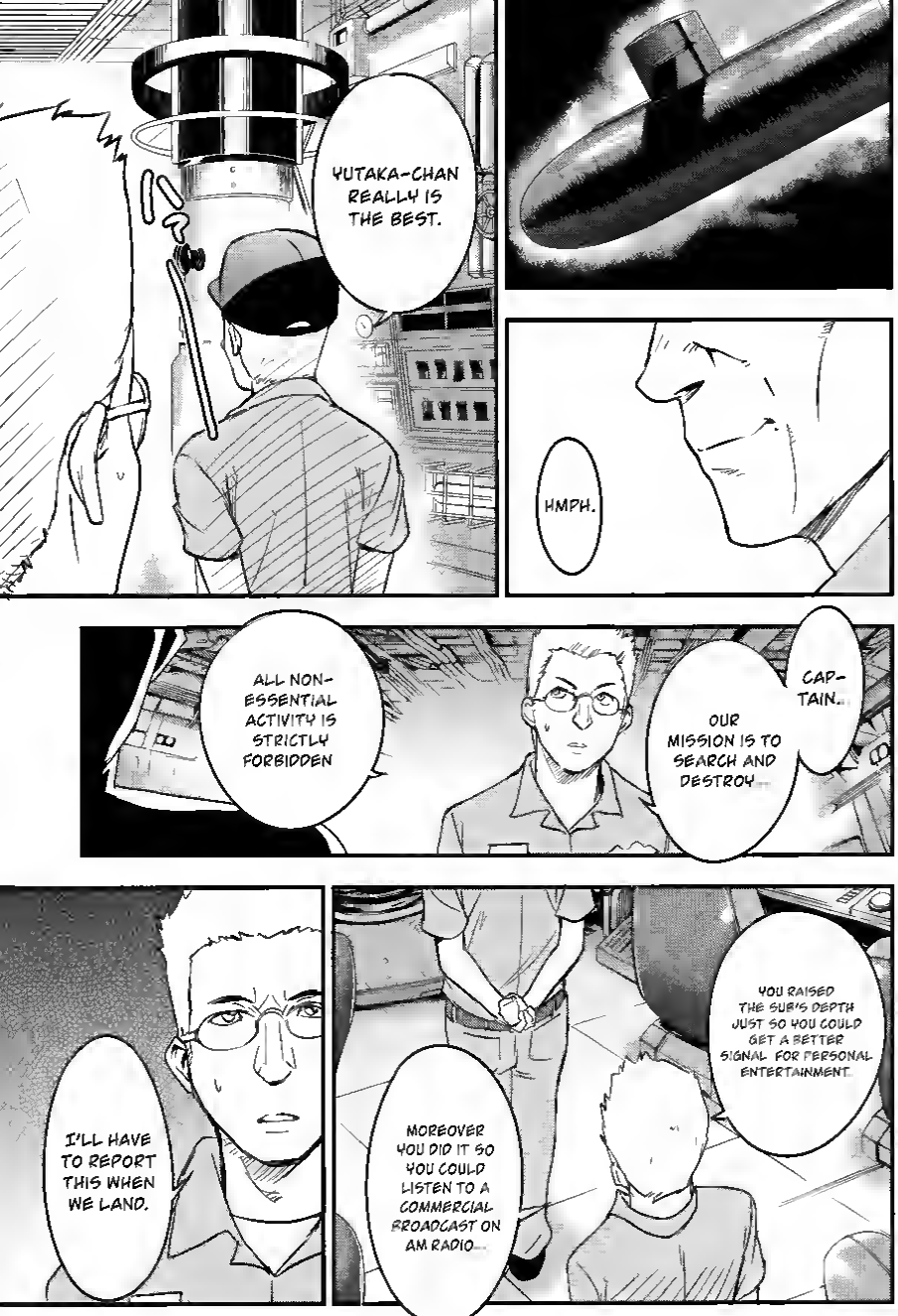
AAHH
Receiving Report
Radio Station
Verification Card
YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A FORM OF MEMORABILIA.
IN RESPONSE, WE SEND THEM A VERIFICATION CARD

LISTENING TO YOUR PROGRAM FROM PLACES WE COULDN'T IMAGINE, YOU KNOW
Ace
THERE MAY BE PEOPLE OUT THERE


ガヤ
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY FOLKS.
SORRY.
ガヤ
TO WRAP THINGS UP, I'D LIKE TO READ OFF AN EROTIC HAIKU--
SMACK

AND WITH THAT... THANKS FOR LISTENING TO
HORIUCHI YUTAKA'S OPERATION AURORA!
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK~

LOWER THE ANTENNA.
AYE-AYE SIR.
WE WILL BE ASSUMING PATROL STATIONS NOW.
SET OUR COURSE TO 0-4-6, DEPTH TO 220.
0-4-6, DOWN-TRIM 20.
USS Houston
Captain John Harris


YUTAKA-CHAN REALLY IS THE BEST.
HMPH.
CAP-TAIN...
OUR MISSION IS TO SEARCH AND DESTROY...
ALL NON-ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN
YOU RAISED THE SUB'S DEPTH JUST SO YOU COULD GET A BETTER SIGNAL FOR PERSONAL ENTERTAINMENT.
MOREOVER YOU DID IT SO YOU COULD LISTEN TO A COMMERCIAL BROADCAST ON AM RADIO...
I'LL HAVE TO REPORT THIS WHEN WE LAND.

IS THAT YOUR OPINION AS VICE-CAPTAIN?
OF COURSE
LT. NELSON.
YES?
LIEUTE-NANT...
!!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE A FAN OF KAIEDA MIHO?

BOTH HORIUCHI YUTAKA'S OPERATION AURORA
AND KAIEDA MIHO'S PON DE NIGHT AIR AT THE SAME TIME.
BECAUSE I TAKE UP THE WHOLE FREQUENCY TO LISTEN TO MY SHOW
YOU ARE UNABLE TO LISTEN TO HERS
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DENY THAT THIS HAS ALWAYS BOTHERED YOU
USS HOUSTON
SSN-713
RIGHT?
I'M SORRY CAPTAIN, BUT...
MIPPON IS SO MUCH CUTER...!!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...

Kyaha
I'M MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH HER
PETITE FIGURE AND TWIN TAILS.
WHILE SHE MAY PRESENT HERSELF AS HIGH AND MIGHTY
SHE SHOWS YOU... NO, SHE SLIPS, AND YOU SEE A GLIMPSE OF A VERY CARING AND INNOCENT GIRL.
THIS GAP
THIS IS WHAT THE JAPANESE CALL "MOE."
INDEED, IDOLS SHORTER THAN 160CM REIGN SUPREME
MIDDOH IS A TOTAL ANGEL.
FILTHY LOLICON!!
DO YOU NOT REALIZE THAT THE RATINGS OF SCUM LIKE KAIEDA MIHO WENT UP THE MORE THEY BASHED YUTAKA-CHAN!?
IF SHE HADN'T GOT CAUGHT UP IN THAT SCANDAL, SHE WOULD HAVE ECLIPSED ALL THOSE OTHER WORTHLESS IDOLS!!
CAPTAIN!! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!!?
HERE WE GO AGAIN.

MIPPON'S RATINGS WENT UP BECAUSE OF HER EFFORTS ALONE!!
AND WHILE HER DEBUT SALES WERE INFLUENCED BY HER COMPETITION WITH YUTAKA
SHE'S BEEN SELLING JUST FINE SINCE THEN WITH HER ADORABLENESS!!
HMPH!! WHAT GOOD'S AN IDOL WITH JUST A PRETTY FACE!?
YUTAKA-CHAN DIDN'T GIVE UP AFTER HER DISASTROUS SCANDAL
SHE POURED ALL HER EFFORTS INTO HER RADIO SHOW, THE ONLY THING SHE HAD LEFT, AND NOW NONE CAN MATCH HER SUCCESS THERE.
HOW DARE YOU COMPARE HER TO SOME BRAT WHO'S NEVER SHED A SINGLE TEAR!?

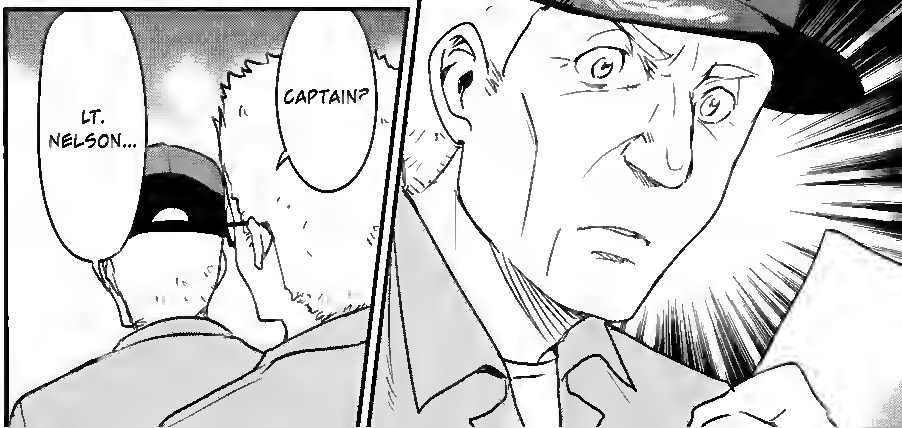
OH SHUT UP!!
FANATICS ARE SO ANNOYING!!
OH, YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!!
YOU DAMN HYPOCRITE!!

FINE!!
FINE ALREADY!!
I'M RETIRING TO THE CAPTAIN'S OFFICE
TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M GOING TO SEND THE SHOW NEXT!!
SO DON'T DISTURB ME!!
NO PLEASE, TAKE YOUR TIME!!
AHH ..
GET ME OFF OF THIS GODDAMN SUB ALREADY...

SO YOU REALLY ARE CONTINUING THIS STUPID EVENT.
YOU'LL BE DELIVERING GIFTS TO THEM
IT'S THE LISTENERS CHOSEN FOR THIS WEEK
HERE
HEY
DEEP THROAT'S ON THIS THING.
DOESN'T HIS STUFF GET READ DURING THE PROGRAM A LOT?
HE'S A REGULAR ALRIGHT
HIS SUBMISSIONS ARE ALWAYS VERY INTERESTING
HMM.
YEP.
HE'S PART OF THIS WEEK'S WINNERS
Let me see

I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM MYSELF ONE DAY.
HE COULD BE A COMEDIAN OR AN ASPIRING WRITER.
I WONDER WHAT KINDA PERSON HE IS?

GIVE IT HERE.
WE'VE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM YOKOSUKA
CAP-TAIN.


LT. NELSON...
CAPTAIN?
SSN 713

ASSEMBLE THE CREW.

RIGHT AWAY.

THIS IS PART OF A LARGE SPECIAL EVENT THE SHOW IS HOLDING

THE GIFT IS A SIGNED COPY OF YUTAKA-CHAN'S NEW CD

USS HOUSTON
SSN-713
ME OF BEING SELECTED AS ONE OF THE LISTENERS TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT FROM HORIUCHI YUTAKA'S OPERATION AURORA

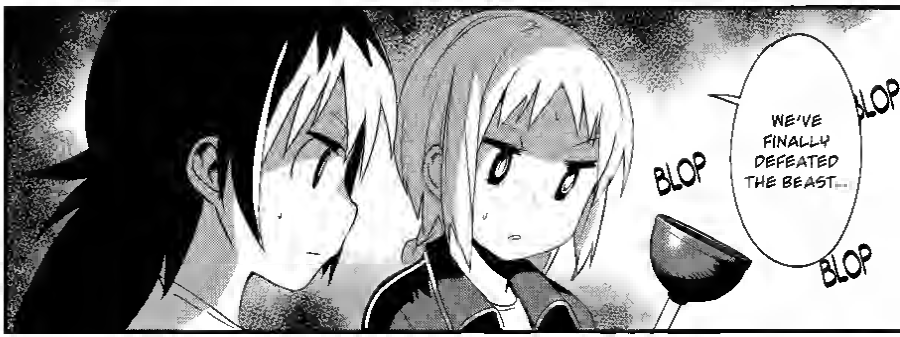
YUTAKA-CHAN MUST GIVE ME IT IN PERSON.
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT FOR ME TO RECEIVE THIS GIFT
I...
.....

HOW-EVER...
I REALLY WANT IT.
I WANT THIS CD.

ALL THE LETTERS AND JOKES I WRITE
ARE TRANSCRIBED AND SENT BY AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE STATIONED AT YOKOSUKA HQ
SECRET
SIGH.
OF COURSE, I CANNOT LEAVE THIS SUB TO GO ACCEPT IT.
THE ADDRESS USED IS ALSO THAT OF HQ, SO I COULD EASILY ASK HIM TO ACCEPT THE PRESENT IN MY STEAD.
HOUSTON
713
THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY
BUT...
THE PERSON CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THE GIFT WAS ME.

USS HOUSTON
SSN-713
DO YOU INTEND TO TAKE US DIRECTLY TO JAPAN?!
CAPTAIN...

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

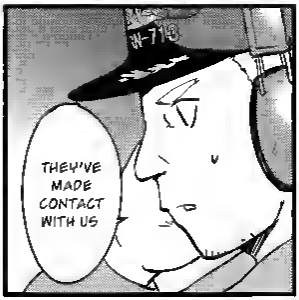

WE'VE FINALLY DEFEATED THE BEAST...
BLOP
BLOP
BLOP

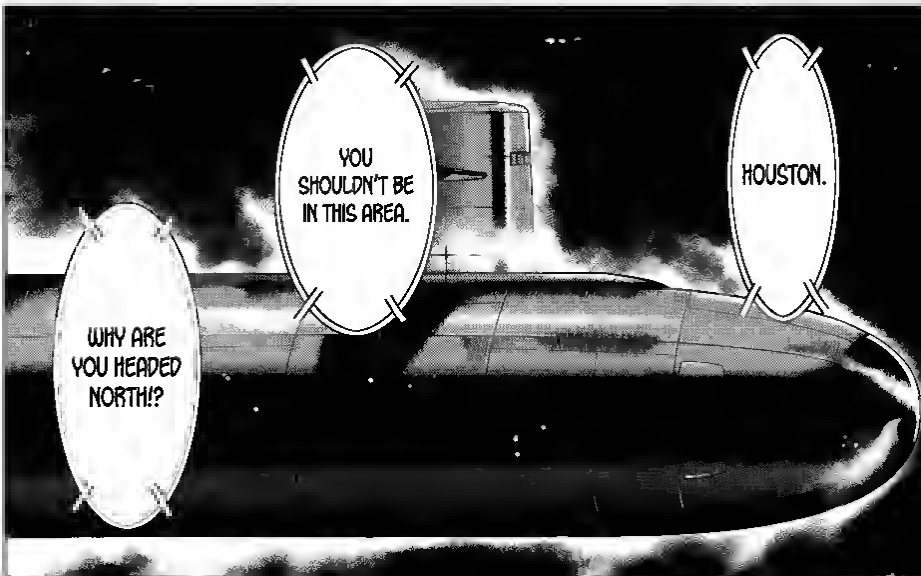
I CAN'T CONTROL WHAT COMES OUT.
EVEN A LOS ANGELES CLOGS IT PRETTY BADLY
Los Angeles
109m
PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL. OUR POOR OLD TOILET IS TOAST IF YOU DROP A TYPHOON LIKE LIKE LAST TIME.
Typhoon
170m

HALT.
HOW FAR UNTIL WE REACH OUR DESTINATION?
CURRENTLY 4,000 AWAY
BEGINNING SONAR ANALYSIS OF SURROUNDING AREA..
SSN-713
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY ENEMY SUBS IN THIS VICINITY BESIDES, WE'RE TECHNICALLY ON A US NAVY SANCTIONED MISSION
PERHAPS..
HOUSTON
SN-713
SONAR CHECK COMPLETE.
BUT IT'S BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.

USS SANTA FE.
IT'S A LOS ANGELES CLASS

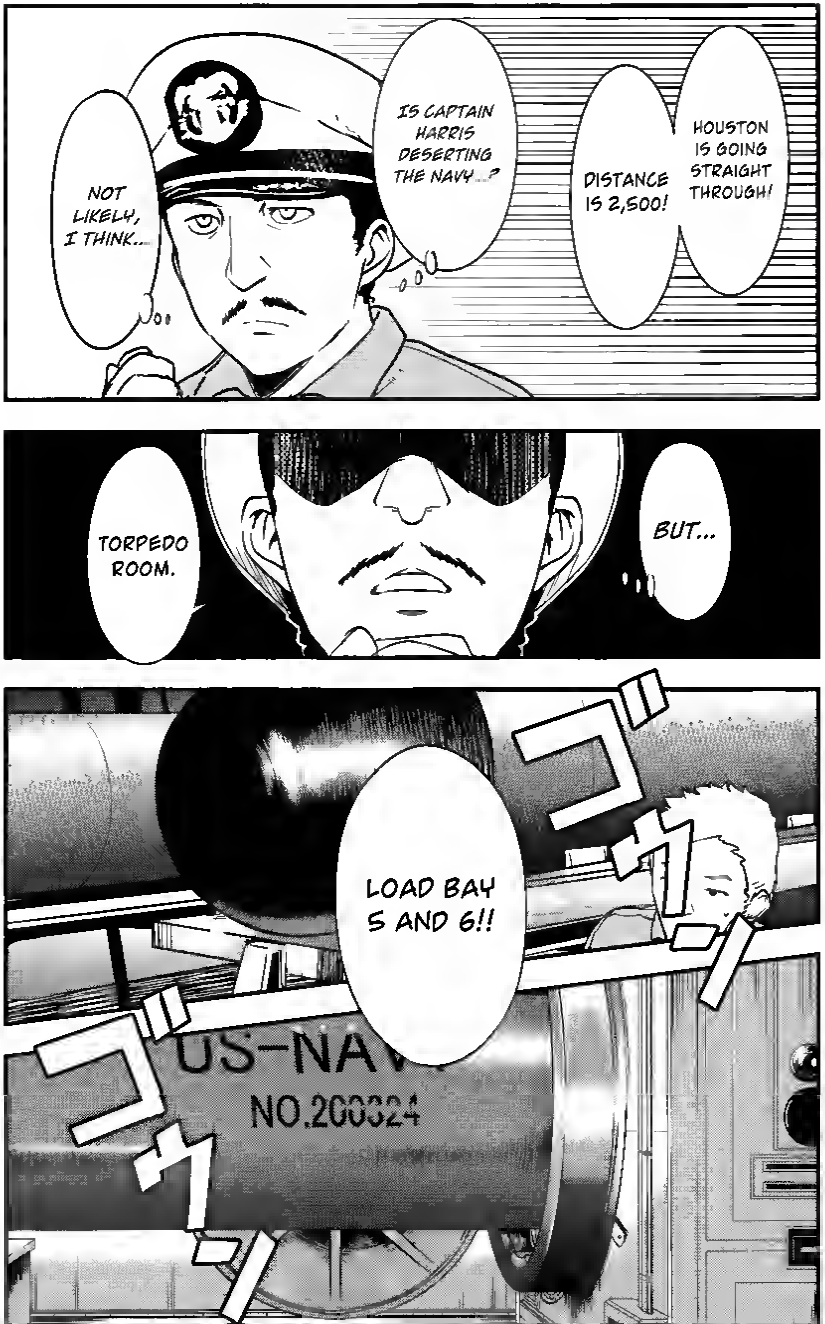
PATCH ME OVER
IT'S VIA THE UNDERWATER TELEPHONE


THEY'VE MADE CONTACT WITH US


HOUSTON.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN THIS AREA.
WHY ARE YOU HEADED NORTH!?

HOUSTON
SSN-713
UNFOR-TUNATE-LY...
THIS IS A SPECIAL MISSION I CANNOT DISCLOSE ANY INFORMATION ON IT
USS HOUSTON
SSN-713
STATE YOUR INTENTIONS!!
.....
ドゥオオオオン
HOUSTON.
THEY'RE TRYING TO FORCE THEIR WAY THROUGH!
HOUSTON HAS STARTED MOVING AGAIN!!
USS Santa Fe
Captain Michael Hudson

WE CANNOT LET YOU THROUGH UNTIL YOU CLEARLY STATE THE BUSINESS YOU HAVE HERE!
WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM HQ ABOUT THIS.
STOP YOUR SUB.
I REPEAT, STOP YOUR SUB!!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE ANY MORE TIME HERE
SSN-713
FULL
SPEED AHEAD!!


NOT LIKELY, I THINK...
IS CAPTAIN HARRIS DESERTING THE NAVY...?
DISTANCE IS 2,500!
HOUSTON IS GOING STRAIGHT THROUGH!
TORPEDO ROOM.
BUT...
LOAD BAY 5 AND 6!!
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
US-NAV
NO.200324

SSN-713
!!
SSN-713
.....
CAPTAIN!!
SSN-713
DETEC-TED!!
TOR-PEDOES HAVE BEEN
IF THIS ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU
HUDSON... THIS SUB
HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH A VERY IMPORTANT MISSION NORTH OF HERE
CAPTAIN HUDSON (UNLIKE YOU) STICKS TO THE RULES!! IF HE GETS WIND THAT WE'RE
I KNOW.
GOING AGAINST OUR ORDERS, HE'LL LAUNCH A FULL-BLOWN ATTACK ON US!!

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN.
GO AHEAD AND FIRE YOUR TORPEDOES AT US.
HARRIS ...
SO YOU SAY THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT...
IS THIS MISSION FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!?
ANSWER ME!!
.....

USS HOUSTON
SSN-713
...IT IS.
YOU DIRTY LIAR!!!

HOUSTON'S COURSE REMAINS UNCHANGED!!
DISTANCE IS AT 1,200!!
800!!
600!!
400!!
200!!
WE'RE PASSING THEM NOW!!

HUD-SON...
THANK YOU
DISTANCE FROM SANTA FE IS AT 500 AND COUNTING!!
I'LL SHAKE HER HAND
IN YOUR HONOR!!!

THIS IS THE PLACE HE SPECIFIED
HE SAID IT HAD TO BE HERE
MEETING HIM HERE?
SO WHY ARE WE
EGA DOS
OKAY, BUT IT JUST FEELS LIKE WE'RE MEETING FOR A SHADY DEAL OR SOMETHING
I BROUGHT ALL THE STAFF IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS
MAYBE THEY'RE COMING BY BOAT?
I MEAN, HE'S HAVING US MEET IN SUCH A SECLUDED AREA

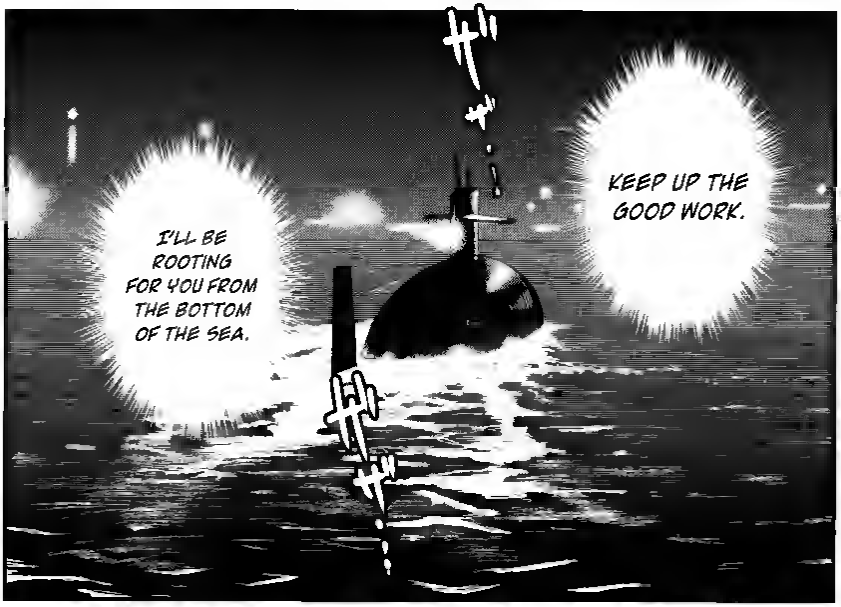
GLUB
GLUB
HAHA THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D-
!!!
...!!

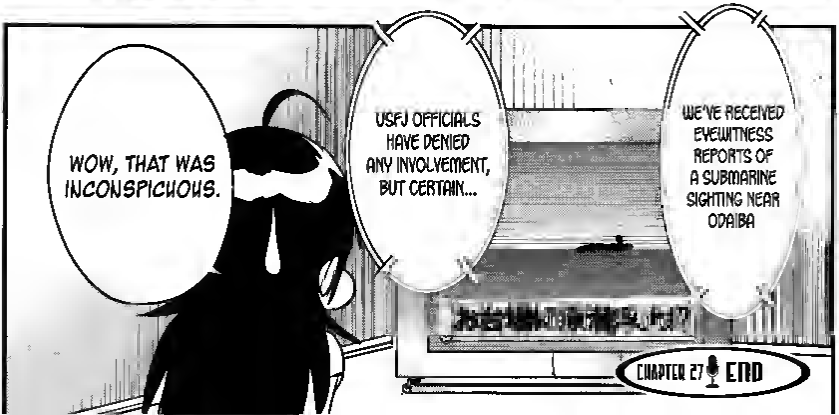
ドドドドドド
CAPTAIN JOHN HARRIS, AT YOUR SERVICE.
I'M "DEEP THROAT."
GOOD EVENING, HORIUCHI YUTAKA-SAN.
I'M SORRY FOR FRIGHTENING YOU.
HA HA HA
?!
?!
MEGA DOS

HERE YOU GO.
YES!!!
sniff
sniff
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU!
YOU'RE WELCOME
YOU'VE SURE SENT US QUITE A FEW LETTERS.
MEGA DOS
MY MIND WANDERS WHILE I'M AT SEA
YOUR SHOW IS THE ONLY THING I EVER LOOK FORWARD TO
IN FACT, YOUR SHOW IS QUITE POPULAR WITH EVERY-ONE.
OH REALLY..?
YOUR TALKS ARE ALSO QUITE FASCI-NATING.
HALF OF THE TIME NICE AND PRETTY
HALF OF THE TIME STRANGELY FUNKY.
ALMOST AS IF TWO PEOPLE ARE TALKIN-
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!!
MEGA DOS

SO THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT...
AH...
YOU BLOCKHEAD!!
AH.
HMPH...
2ND LT MILLER WAS RIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE I WIN THE BET, CAPTAIN.
PL-
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS!!
This guy.
USS HOUSTON
SSN-713
HE SAID THERE HAD TO BE TWO PEOPLE RUNNING OPERATION AURORA.
I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM, BUT
!
HE'S OUR SUB'S ACE SONAR GUY.
GOT A REAL GREAT PAIR OF EARS ON 'IM.
?

I'M A BIG FAN OF YOU-
NO, YOU TWO.
DON'T WORRY WE WON'T TELL A SOUL


I'LL BE ROOTING FOR YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.


WOW, THAT WAS INCONSPICUOUS.
USFJ OFFICIALS HAVE DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT, BUT CERTAIN...
WE'VE RECEIVED EYEWITNESS REPORTS OF A SUBMARINE SIGHTING NEAR ODAIBA
CHAPTER 27 END

W-what is it?
I just felt like saying it!!
KAEDA!!!

FLASH
HEY UHM...
MY JOB IS TO RECORD.
TRY NOT TO TAKE TOO MANY UNCOOL PICTURES OF ME

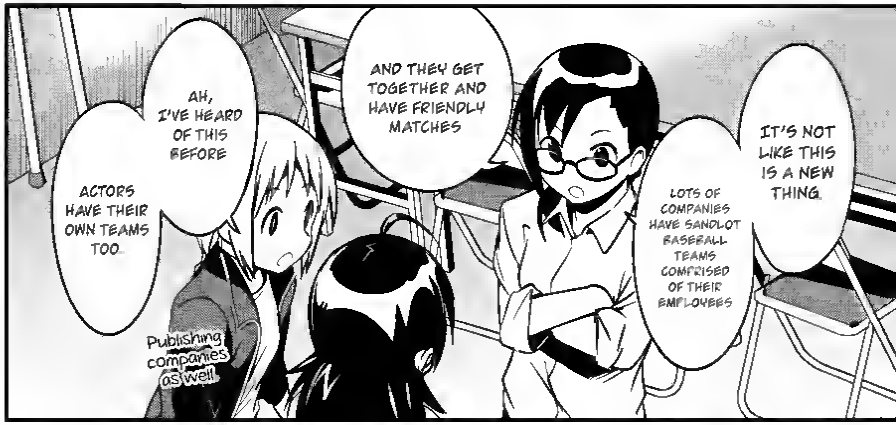
CHAPTER 20 VANISHING POINT
ARE BOTH IMPORTANT. SO THEY ARE WORTH REMEMBERING.
THE GOOD AND THE BAD

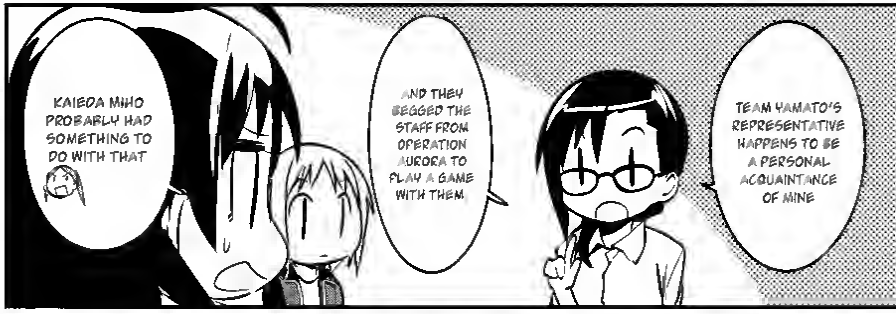
CHAPTER 28
VANISHING POINT

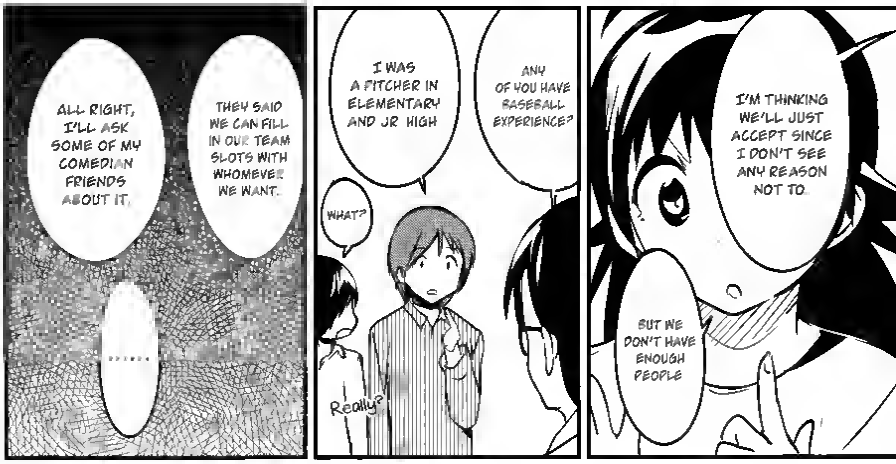
STRIKE!!
.....
HEY!!!!....
THAT WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STRIKE ZONE!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU HIT IT?!
SHUT UP!!
OR DID YOU JUST NOT FEEL LIKE SWINGING?!

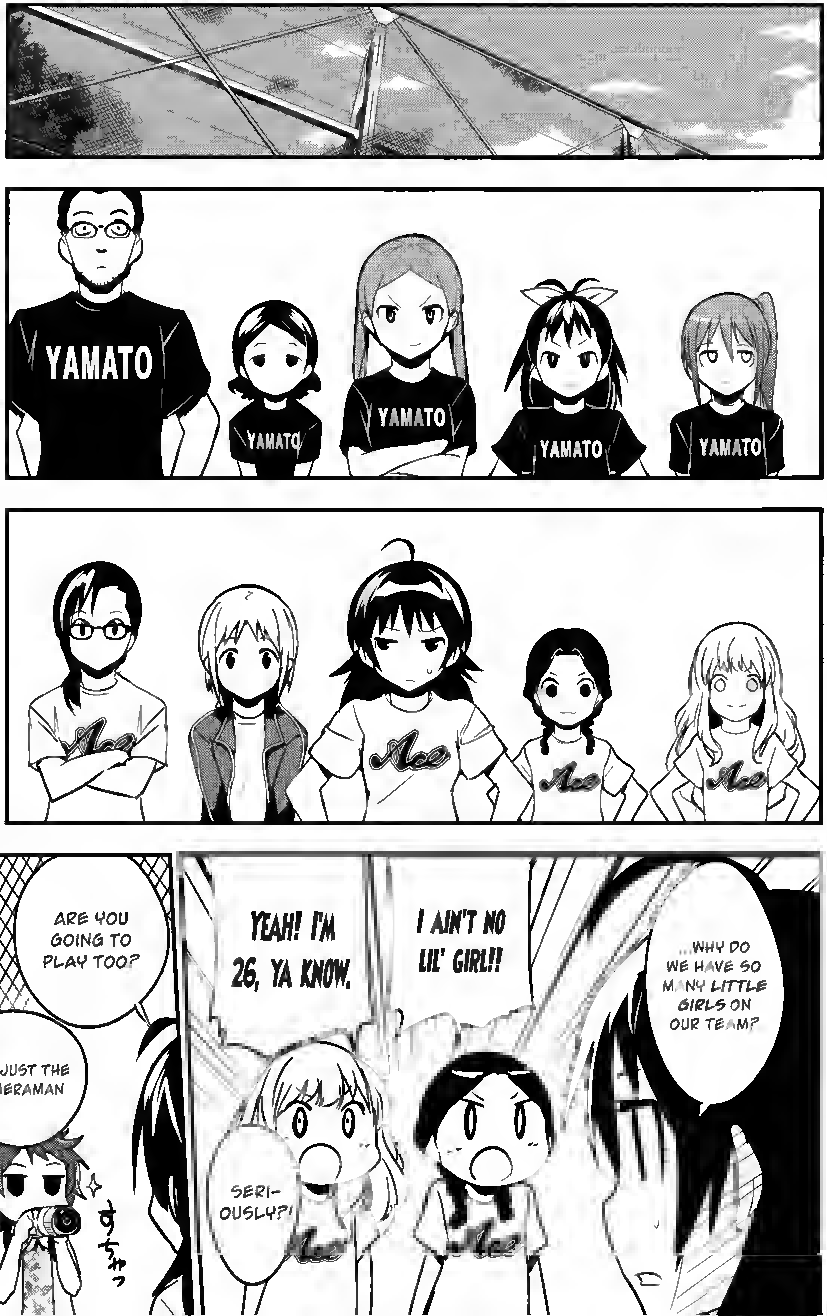
STRIKE! BATTER OUT!!!
GOD, YOU'RE WORTHLESS.
SORRY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
THE PITCHER THROWS WAY TOO FAST.
I'M BAD AT BALL GAMES AS IT IS.
BUT HE'S NOT EVEN THROWING IT THAT SERIOUSLY.
HE MIGHT AS WELL BE PLAYING CATCHBALL RIGHT NOW

NEXT BATTER UP!!
S-SHUT UP!!
I FEEL THAT THE PROBLEM ISN'T THAT YOU'RE BAD AT BALL GAMES
BUT THAT YOU'RE JUST NOT GOOD AT TEAM SPORTS..
Ace
Sign. Masaoka Shiki Memorial Stadium
IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE WONDERING WHY WE'RE PLAYING BASEBALL...
INTER-RADIO STATION TOURNEY?!
THE PEOPLE OVER AT YAMATO SUGGESTED IT.
WHY?
Ace


IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS A NEW THING.
LOTS OF COMPANIES HAVE SANDLOT BASEBALL TEAMS COMPRISED OF THEIR EMPLOYEES
AND THEY GET TOGETHER AND HAVE FRIENDLY MATCHES
AH, I'VE HEARD OF THIS BEFORE
ACTORS HAVE THEIR OWN TEAMS TOO.
Publishing companies as well.


TEAM YAMATO'S REPRESENTATIVE HAPPENS TO BE A PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE
AND THEY BEGGED THE STAFF FROM OPERATION AURORA TO PLAY A GAME WITH THEM.
KAIEDA MIHO PROBABLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT


I'M THINKING WE'LL JUST ACCEPT SINCE I DON'T SEE ANY REASON NOT TO.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE
ANY OF YOU HAVE BASEBALL EXPERIENCE?
I WAS A PITCHER IN ELEMENTARY AND JR. HIGH
WHAT?
Really?
THEY SAID WE CAN FILL IN OUR TEAM SLOTS WITH WHOMEVER WE WANT.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL ASK SOME OF MY COMEDIAN FRIENDS ABOUT IT.
.....


YAMATO
YAMATO
YAMATO
YAMATO
YAMATO
ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY TOO?
I'M JUST THE CAMERAMAN
すちゃっ
YEAH! I'M 26, YA KNOW.
SERI-OUSLY?!
I AIN'T NO LIL' GIRL!!
...WHY DO WE HAVE SO MANY LITTLE GIRLS ON OUR TEAM?

YEAH!! THAT'S SEWADA'S PITCHER KOUGAMI KEISUKE.
AIN'T HE THE BLACK RIM PRINCE?!
HEY! 'AVE A LOOK AT THEIR PITCHER!!
YAMATO
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?!
HEY!!
YAMATO
BUT...
WE'RE JUST DOING THIS FOR FUN, SO HE'S NOT GOING TO THROW SERIOUSLY
The captain of his club said it would be okay
KOUGAMI GOES TO MY OLD UNIVERSITY, SO I JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK HIM FOR THE HELL OF IT
IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION, SO WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO MAKE IT MORE EXCITING...
OR SO MIHO-CHAN SAID
SO YOU THOUGHT "BRINGING WHOMEVER YOU WANT" MEANT THAT YOU COULD BRING A STAR PITCHER FROM *KOSHIEN ALONG?
THAT'S JUST PATHETIC!!

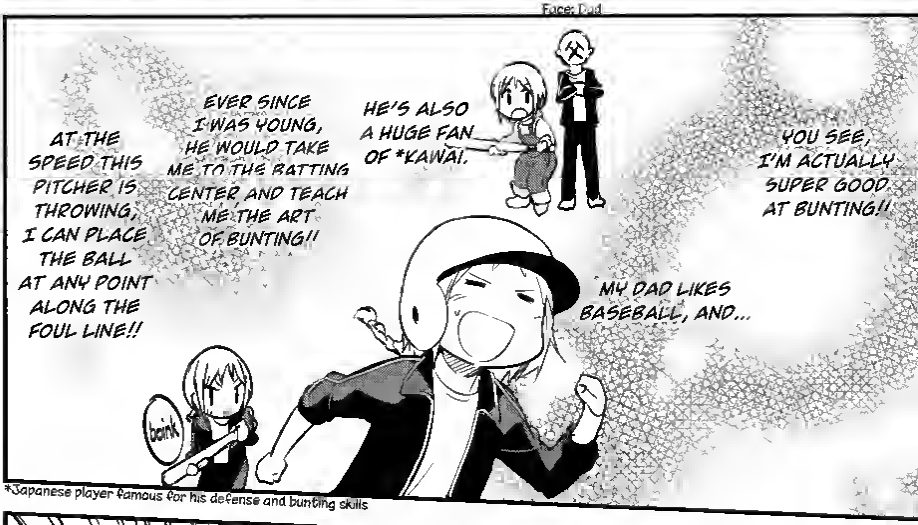
*The name of a famous stadium in Kobe

IT'S NOT EVERYDAY YOU MEET SOMEONE WHO CAN HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST TAKI-SAN
IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF NICE
HMPH, WELL 'AH THINK IT'S FINE.
WE ALSO BROUGHT ALONG A GUY WHO'S PLAYED AT KOSHIEN
NAME'S OKAMOTO KOICHI, BUT WE CALL 'EM OKARIN HE JOINED OUR OFFICE THIS YEAR
AS A SOLO COMEDIAN.
HEY.
I LOST TWO GAMES THERE
BUT I WAS MVP IN THE PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT 'CAUSE MY BATTING AVERAGE WAS 508!!
I BROUGHT HIM ALONG SO HE COULD MEET YUTAKA-CHAN

BUT YAH DON'T FEEL LIKE BEATIN' 'EM TODAY
AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH
OUR TEAM HAS WAY TOO MANY HOLES IN IT
1 STRIKE-OUT 2 FIELD ERRORS
1 STRIKE-OUT 1 FIELD ERROR
Yamato 2 4 4
YA GOTTA HAND IT TA THE BLACK RIM PRINCE.
ビュッ
!?

コン
A DRAG BUNT?!
ころころ
IT'S A FOUL!!!
DON'T PICK IT UP!!

Face: Dad


AT THE SPEED THIS PITCHER IS THROWING, I CAN PLACE THE BALL AT ANY POINT ALONG THE FOUL LINE!!
EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG, HE WOULD TAKE ME TO THE BATTING CENTER AND TEACH ME THE ART OF BUNTING!!
HE'S ALSO A HUGE FAN OF *KAWAI.
YOU SEE, I'M ACTUALLY SUPER GOOD AT BUNTING!!
MY DAD LIKES BASEBALL, AND...
bonk

*Japanese player famous for his defense and bunting skills

Out!
THERE'S NO POINT IN DOING A DRAG BUNT IF YOU CAN'T RUN TO FIRST BASE.
Haa
Haa
Haa
But bunts are the only thing I can do.
SWITCH-ING TO OFFENSE
PIT-CHER UEDA
THOUGH I ONLY PLAYED BASEBALL UP TO JR HIGH
BALL!!
HIS SPEED IS GOOD, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN HIS BALL CONTROL.
SO IF HE'S NOT GOING TO THROW IT INWARD
THEN...

YA!!
34
NO WAY!!

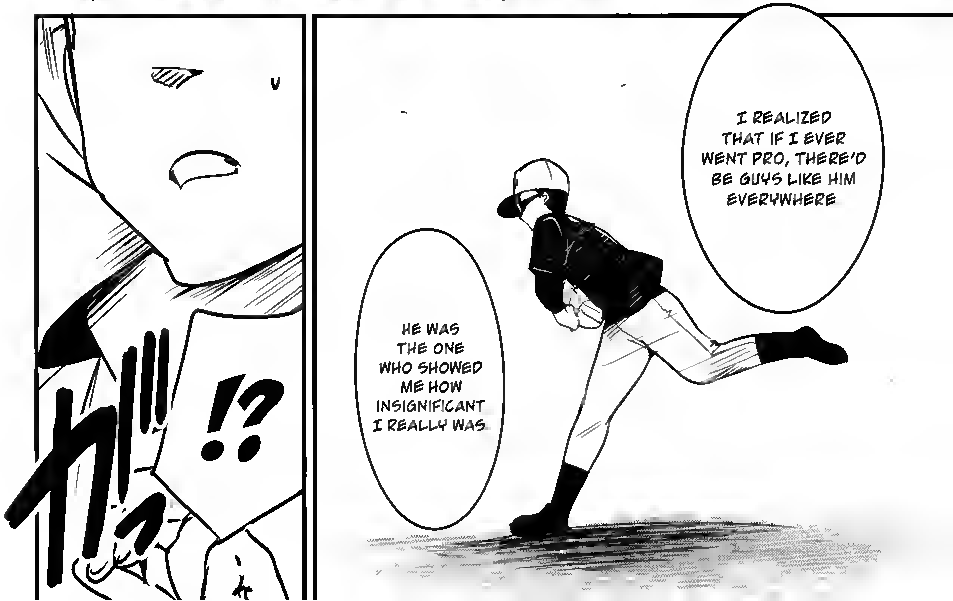
SHE SURE CAN HIT FAR FOR SUCH A SHORT PERSON...
HOME RUN...
KYAHA HAHA!!
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT BASEBALL, BUT I HATE LOSING TO YOU...
Y-!!
Kyaha
First Base
Sorry!!
I'LL BE TAKING A POINT NOW
HOW ARE YOU DOING?!
WHY, ISN'T IT THE PERSON WHO STRUCK OUT EARLIER!
SO THE CURSE PERSISTS...
WHAT? REALLY?
I HEARD SENPAI WAS THE ONE WHO PUSHED FOR THIS EVEN TO BEGIN WITH
KYAHA HAHA
Y...
KAEDA-SENPAI'S SURE HAVING FUN

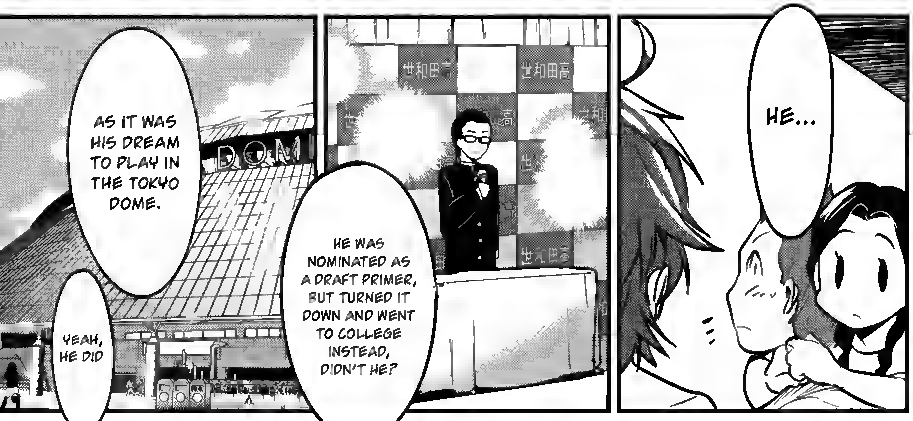
カキーン
A HOME RUN!!
Wow

JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM A PLAYER WHO'S BEEN TO KOSHIEN
NAH.
KOUGAMI-KUN WOULD'VE WIPED THE FLOOR WITH ME IF HE WAS PLAYING SERIOUSLY
BESIDES, THIS IS SOFTBALL
YOU'VE PLAYED AGAINST HIM AT KOSHIEN STADIUM BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?
As a 3rd year
OH REALLY?
YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!
I CHECK THE GAMES AT KOSHIEN EVERY YEAR.
Wow
MAN, I'M A LITTLE EMBARRASSED
.....

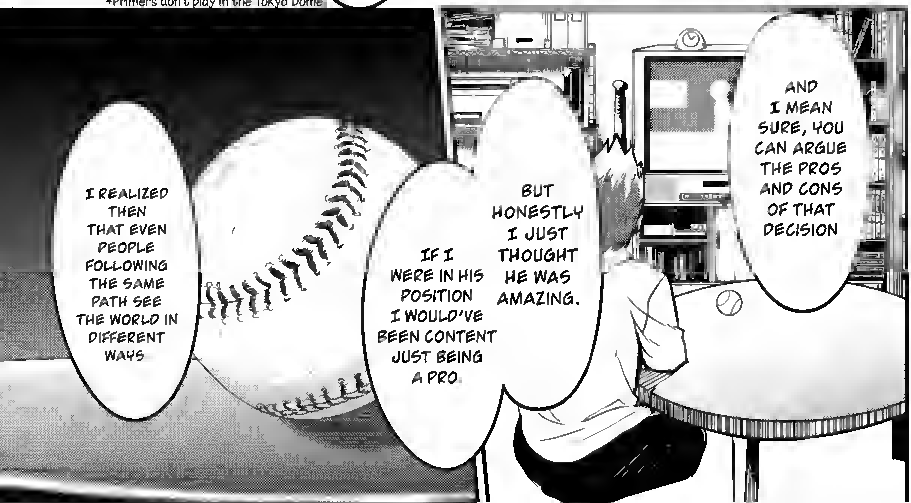
KOUGAMI -KUN IS THE HERO OF OUR GENERATION.
IT WAS AN HONOR TO JUST PLAY AGAINST HIM.
OF THE FOUR TIMES I WAS ON THE PLATE, I HAD ZERO SAFE HITS AND TWO STRIKEOUTS

*To clarify, he struck out twice. The other two times he h t it, but he d dn t get to first base.


I REALIZED THAT IF I EVER WENT PRO, THERE'D BE GUYS LIKE HIM EVERYWHERE
HE WAS THE ONE WHO SHOWED ME HOW INSIGNIFICANT I REALLY WAS.
!?


AS IT WAS HIS DREAM TO PLAY IN THE TOKYO DOME.
YEAH, HE DID
HE WAS NOMINATED AS A DRAFT PRIMER, BUT TURNED IT DOWN AND WENT TO COLLEGE INSTEAD, DIDN'T HE?
HE...

*Primers don't play in the Tokyo Dome


I REALIZED THEN THAT EVEN PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE SAME PATH SEE THE WORLD IN DIFFERENT WAYS
IF I WERE IN HIS POSITION I WOULD'VE BEEN CONTENT JUST BEING A PRO.
BUT HONESTLY I JUST THOUGHT HE WAS AMAZING.
AND I MEAN SURE, YOU CAN ARGUE THE PROS AND CONS OF THAT DECISION

THAT THOSE WHO ARE CHOSEN AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT
HAVE A DIFFERENT VISION OF THE FUTURE.

あっ
AH
NO...
SOME-THING WRONG?
WHAT'S WITH YA, TRYNA ACT ALL COOL?!
AREN'T YA JUST SAYIN' THAT THEY'RE ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL?!
OWWWW I GIVE, I GIVE!!
?

CENTER FRONT!!
HERE SHE COMES AGAIN...
HAVING FUN?
Haa
Haa
OUR PITCHER IS COMPLETELY WORN OUT.
THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD.
CAN'T YOU UH, EASE UP A LITTLE?
YOU'RE AN ACTUAL BASEBALL PLAYER

THOSE WHO ARE ALWAYS FOCUSED ON WINNING
AND ARE DESTINED TO AIM FOR THE TOP
AND THOSE WHO ACCEPT LOSING AS PART OF THE GAME
AND ARE OKAY WITH BEING SECOND PLACE
1
2
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? WE'RE JUST HAVING FUN PLAYING BASEBALL RIGHT NOW
HMPH.
KYAHA.
DO YOU KNOW?
ﾊﾐﾐﾝ

OF N:1-1

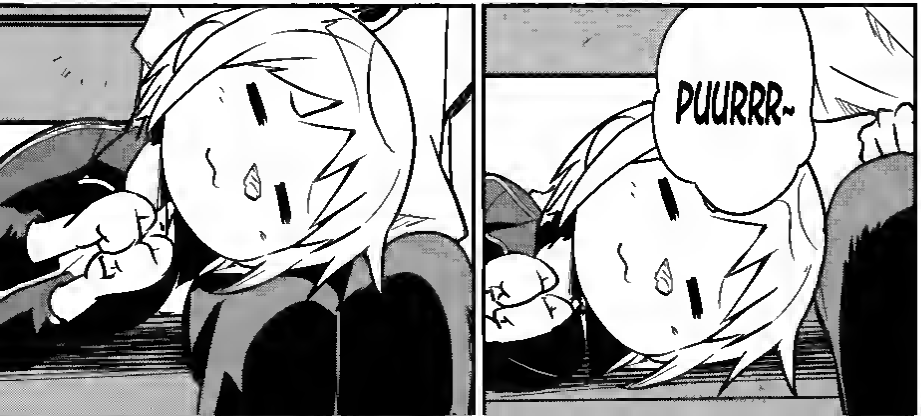
SHORT FOR NEW IDOL ONE.
THE MUSIC FESTIVAL THAT DECIDES THE TOP IDOLS AMONGST THOSE WHO HAVE DEBUTED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.
THEY'RE HOLDING THE FIRST ONE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.
OF COURSE, MARINE WILL ALSO BE PERFORMING.
THEY'RE STILL GREEN, BUT I THINK THEY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP.

LAST I CHECKED YOU WERE THE SAME AS US.
Ace

6TH INNING
ONE OUT, ONE ON THIRD BASE.
GO HARUMI -CHAN!!
OUT
GO FOR A SQUEEZE BUNT!!
YOU CAN DO IT!!
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
THAT GIRL IS SHAKING LIKE A TREE IN THE WIND
WELL, SHE NEVER COULD HANDLE PRESSURE VERY WELL.
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

SHE'S PRETTY TOUGH. SHE'LL BE FINE.
YOU OKAY?
PULLED FROM MATCH DUE TO INJURY
Uuhhh...
A-ARE YOU OKAY?!
YAMATO
OOOOOOOOO

YOU'RE GROSS.
Scooch
Scooch
Can I put my head on your lap?
Yutaka -saaan~

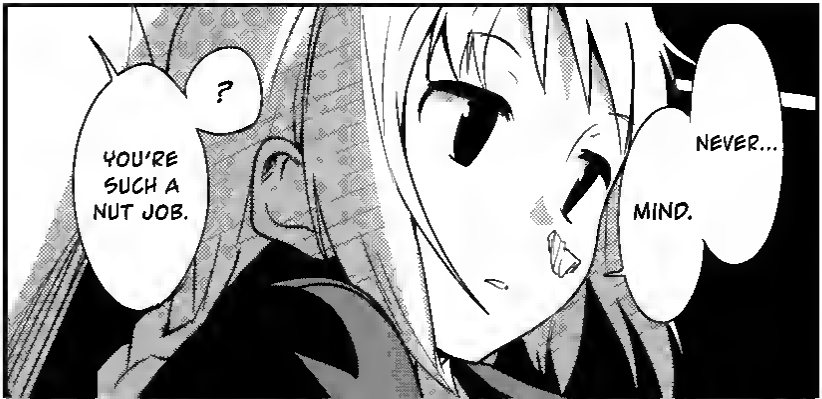

PUURRR~

ALL RIGHT.
!!
Ace
W-WHA? WHA?!
SHE'S NOT GOING TO HIT ME?!
BUT ONLY UNTIL YOUR NOSE STOPS BLEEDING.

grab
squish
squish
squish
Ice
Y-Y-Y-Y-Y-Y-Y-Y-YUTAKA-SAN?
WHAT?
GUHHGHH!!
I... wanted to make sure I wasn't dreaming...
WHY THE HELL DID YOU JUST DO THAT?!

HAVE A DIFFERENT VISION OF THE FUTURE.

THOSE WHO ARE CHOSEN AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT



I WONDER HOW LONG
I'LL BE ABLE TO STAY WITH YUTAKA-SAN LIKE THIS.

Sign: Yakiniku Place

PUT OUT THE FIRE!! I NEED SOME ICE!!
OW!!
YEAH, NOT EVERY DAY YA GET TA EAT THIS STUFF.
HARUMI! HERE, HAVE S'MORE MEAT!! C'MON, EAT UP!!
TAKI-SAN IS THIS CONSIDERED PART OF COMPANY EXPENSES?
I HOPE SO BUT LET'S SPLIT THE BILL JUST IN CASE
.....

OH C'MON, GIVE US A BREAK...
I'M GOING TO DRILL THIS INTO YOUR HEADS UNTIL YOU GET IT RIGHT!!
IN TOTAL, YOU THREE MADE FIVE ERRORS AND GOT NO HITS!!
CHAPTER 20 END

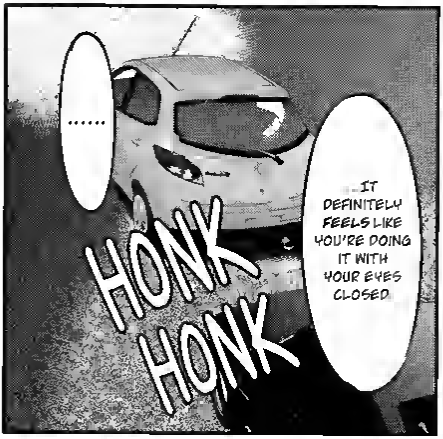
Try not to worry about how much money your peers make

N:i-1.
CHAPTER 29 ROOKIES
A CONTEST THAT TESTS THE LIMITS OF IDOLS WHO HAVE DEBUTED WITHIN THE PAST THREE YEARS.
IDOLS FROM FAR AND WIDE WILL GATHER ON A SINGLE STAGE AND COMPETE WITH THEIR MUSICAL PERFORMANCES.
SPECIAL JUDGES, ALONG WITH REGULAR PEOPLE, WILL BE BROUGHT IN TO VOTE ON EACH PERFORMANCE.
THE IDOL WITH THE MOST VOTES WILL BE GIVEN THE TITLE OF NEW IDOL CHAMPION FOR THIS YEAR.

CHAPTER 29 ROOKIES

Ace
CALIFORNIA
GOOD WORK TODAY.
끼익
끼익

*A highway in Tokyo known for being full of dangerous.



BY THE WAY, THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM N.I-1'S HOSTS.

A CHANGE IN THE PARTICI-PATION REQUIRE-MENTS
OH? WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?
THE CONDITIONS ONE MUST MEET IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE HAVE BEEN ALTERED
FROM "HAVE DEBUTED WITHIN 36 MONTHS FROM THE APPLICATION DEADLINE"
TO "HAVE DEBUTED WITHIN 36 MONTHS FROM THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION"
.....
AND?
—I SEE YOU DON'T GET IT.
LET ME REPHRASE

IT MEANS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPETE
BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE DEBUTED 37 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE COMPETITION.
WHAT...?
IT'S JUST A FEELING, BUT I SUSPECT THAT THE CEO OF KAMI PRO MADE THIS DECISION.
SURE, THIS EVENT IS SUPPOSED TO BE EXCITING, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY THEY JUST WANT TO PUSH THEIR IDOLS TO THE TOP.

ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO TALK TO KAMI PRO ABOUT THIS.
I'LL SEE IF I CAN ASK HOSHI-SAN AND SOME OF THE OTHER PRODUCERS I KNOW TO HELP PETITION FOR A REVISION IN THE RULES
O-OKAY.
THIS IS NO DOUBT TARGETED AT HORIUCHI YUTAKA. THEY ARE BLATANTLY TRYING TO SHUT HER OUT.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS MAY JUST BE PROOF OF HOW WARY THEY ARE OF HER...
BECAUSE IF SHE IS ABLE TO STAND ON THE SAME STAGE AS KAIEDA MIHO AND THE OTHERS,
THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE PATH TO STARDOM WILL OPEN UP TO HER ONCE MORE.

I REFUSE TO LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
FAX
WELL...
THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT ENDED UP..
BUT THIS MEANS HORIUCHI YUTAKA WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER!!
I'M GOING TO LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT AFTER SMIRKING AT HER WHILE TALKING ABOUT IT!
THAT'S YOUR FAULT. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO KEEP THE EVENT A SECRET, BUT THEN YOU DECIDED TO TELL HER ABOUT IT!

I'M GOING TO PROTEST THIS! I'LL TELL THAT BUTT-CHINNED OLD MAN TO CHANGE THE RULES BACK!!
AH! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ZU
ZU
ZU

I CANNOT PLANT SUCH A FLOWER WITH THE REST.
ガッ
ッ

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, OOTSUKA -SAN?
Hehehe... I'm perfectly fine.
!!
You need to sit down and rest!
I-I'm fine, really.
YEAH... NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE SHE ASKS FOR HELP
IT WON'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING IF THE HOSTS DON'T GIVE THE FINAL OKAY...
.....

oductio
SIR.
YOU'VE GOT A PHONE CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NBS
PATCH ME THROUGH.
HELLO?
THIS IS KANDORI.

PRESIDENT TANAMACHI, IT'S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU.
TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE?
BUT I'D LIKE TO REQUEST ANOTHER CHANGE IN THE REGULATIONS FOR N.I-1.
KANDORI -KUN.
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING THIS OF YOU SO SUDDENLY
...?
WHY?
I THOUGHT WE AGREED IN OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS
THAT I WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THE REGULATIONS.
LET ME SAY IT AGAIN.

I'D LIKE TO REQUEST ANOTHER CHANGE IN THE REGULATIONS FOR N-I-1.

...SO WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT CHANGED?
NOTHING.
I JUST WANT YOU TO REVERSE THE CHANGES YOU MADE EARLIER.
BUT...
AT THIS POINT, WE'LL ONLY BE INVITING CONFUSION IF WE CHANGE THE RULES AGAIN.
KANDORI -KUN.
THE BOARD HAS ALREADY MADE THEIR DECISION ON THIS MATTER
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ANNOUNCE IT.

THIS IS...
QUITE TROUBLE-SOME.
.....
...I UNDER-STAND.
REVISE
RULES!!
THANKS FOR SPEEDING THAT ALONG FOR ME.

WHO ARE YOU?
I EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM THE KING OF BROADCASTING.
MISS SECRET AGENT?
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL ME

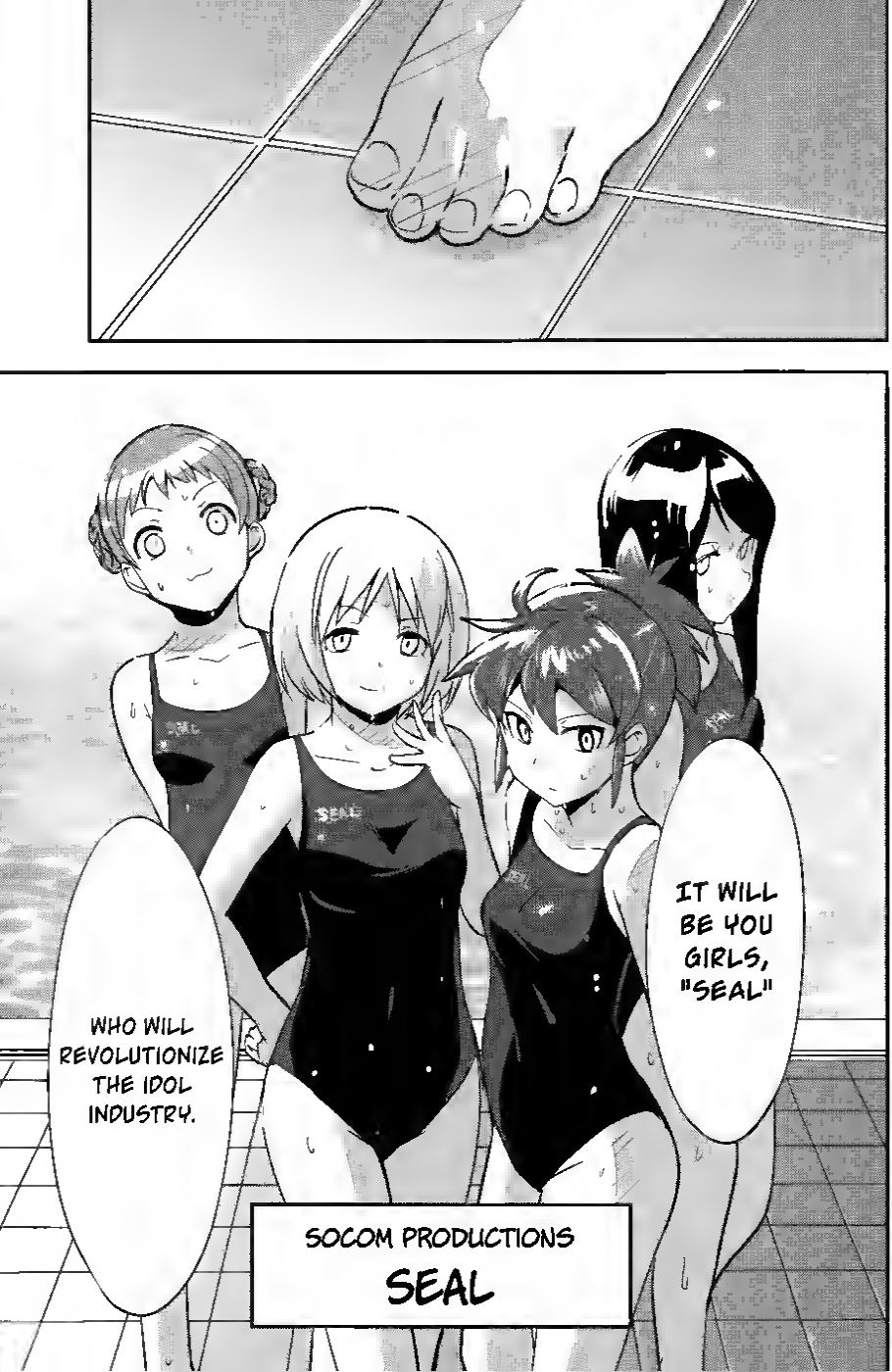
PHEW

slip
WELL, I'VE LAID THE GROUNDWORK.
NOW I JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL.

YAY!!
CONGRA-TULATIONS ON MAKING IT INTO N:i-1!
W-
WHY IS THERE A HOLE IN THE CEILING?!
WASN'T IT ALWAYS LIKE THAT-?
I'VE GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, OTSUKA YOUR HARD REALLY WORK PAYED OFF
NO NO, I DIDN'T DO MUCH AT ALL.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO DECIDE WHAT OUR SHOW SHOULD DO TO HELP THINGS MOVE ALONG.
FUFU...
P-PLEASE DON'T DO THAT!!
THERE'S A HOLE IN THE CEILING!
YEAH
BUT THERE'S NO WAY IT OPENED UP JUST NOW.
DON'T FORGET THAT THE REAL BATTLE IS YET TO COME
YEAH.
YUTAKA-SAN, THERE'S A H-
GONK!!
THAT'S RIGHT. THE REAL BATTLE
a hole... a hole...
IS YET TO COME...

I HEAR HORIUCHI YUTAKA'S PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.
BUT NOT TO WORRY, SHE POSES NO THREAT TO YOU.
HORIUCHI YUTAKA, KAEIDA MIHO... THEIR ROLE IN THIS WORLD HAS COME TO AN END.
A NEW AGE REQUIRES NEW IDOLS.
SCAL
ぺろぺろ
ぺろぺろ


IT WILL BE YOU GIRLS, "SEAL"
WHO WILL REVOLUTIONIZE THE IDOL INDUSTRY.
SOCOM PRODUCTIONS
SEAL

WHAT'D YOU SAY?
THE FINAL DECISION FOR N-1 PARTICIPANTS HAS BEEN MADE?
AND HORIUCHI YUTAKA MADE IT IN...
HMM.
HEY BOSS, GET ME SOME SWEET SHRIMP!
BEEP
MAKI-CHAN, IT'S RUDE TO TALK LOUDLY ON THE PHONE IN A RESTAURANT.

ARE YOU MODELS?
YOU TWO ARE QUITE PRETTY.
UGH.
MAKE THAT TWO!
YOU GONNA HAVE SOME TOO, AKI?
UHM, SURE
NAH, WE'RE IDOLS!
WE'RE GONNA BE NUMBER ONE IN JAPAN REAL SOON, SO DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
CHIYODA TALENT AGENCY
AL ALPHA

OH? FOR THE SCHOOL NEWS-PAPER?
I'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE OFFICE...
...ALL RIGHT AND IF YOU COULD GIVE ME THE ARTICLE WHEN YOU FINISH IT. I'LL RUN IT BY THEM.
SONY

TO BE HONEST
I SEE THE N!-! PERFORMANCE AS A KIND OF FUN LITTLE FESTIVAL, BUT...

I AM ACTUALLY QUITE THE SORE LOSER
AND IF THE RANK I RECEIVE FROM THIS DECIDES MY WORTH
THEN I PLAN TO GO THERE AND WIN.
THAT IS ALL.
ZIC COMPANY
YUURI KANAME

THE RELATIONSHIP I HAVE WITH HORIUCHI YUTAKA WILL CHANGE DRASTICALLY BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER N:1-1.
IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT
WE WON'T RUN INTO EACH OTHER IN TOWN ANYMORE EITHER
YA!
THAT'S WHY I PLAYED BASEBALL WITH HER, SINCE IT'D BE MY LAST CHANCE
BECAUSE OUR BATTLE WILL BE ON THE STAGE NOW.
KAMI PRO
KAIEDA MIHO

YOU REALLY HAVE TO WONDER WHAT THE REASON BEHIND SENPAI'S OBSESSION WITH HORIUCHI YUTAKA IS.
THIS AGAIN?
GIVE IT A REST ALREADY.
WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON N:I-1.
IF SENPAI'S GONNA TAKE THE TOP SPOT, IT'LL LOOK BAD IF WE DON'T GET SECOND PLACE.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE WORRYING ABOUT NOBODIES.
KAMI PRO
MARINE

KAMA-
KURA
SORRY YOU HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE.
I'LL PREPARE SOME TEA.
AH, YES PLEASE.
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE?
HOSHI -SAN.

WILL YOU WRITE THE SONG THAT I'LL SING AT N-1-1?
PLEASE!!

IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS ALREADY, DOESN'T IT?
This is so exciting!
THIS IS THE FIRST CHRISTMAS I'VE HAD WITHOUT LOTS OF SNOW.
THREE MORE DAYS TILL N-1...
I WONDER IF IT WILL CHANGE ANYTHING...
HELLO?

THE HOSPI-TAL?
WHY?
WHA..
TSUKA-CHAN... COLLAPSED?
CHAPTER 25 END

What? Isn't that just part of a ball pen?
I FOUND A BULLET SHELL ON THE FLOOR!!
A BULLET SHELL!!

CHAPTER 30 The show must go on

HAA
HAA
WHERE IS TSUKA -CHAN'S-
I MEAN, OTSUKA'S ROOM?
AH? UHM...
IT'S ROOM 202, BUT...
DON'T RUN INSIDE THE HOSPITAL!!

202
Otsuka
TSUKA -CHAN!!
カッ
TIME OF DEATH... 8:18 PM...
NO...

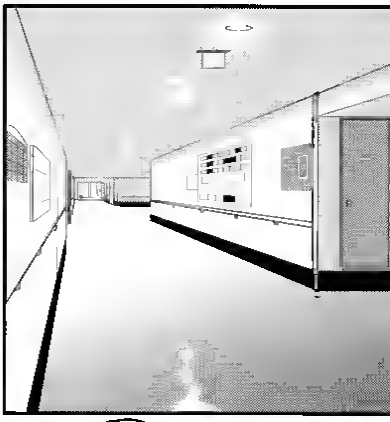
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
YUTAKA?
.....
.....
GRANDMA NOOOOO!!!
202
Otsuka Mitsu
Tamachi Ben

IT SEEMS YOU WERE INFECTED WITH ACUTE ENTERITIS
YOU'VE BEEN OVERWORKING YOURSELF, HAVEN'T YOU? THAT PROBABLY COMPROMISED YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM
HOWEVER, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT YOU ON BED REST.
SO THAT MEANS I—
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT LIFE THREATENING.
phew
THIS WON'T JUST HEAL ON ITS OWN. YOU'LL NEED TO BE HOSPITALIZED
FOR AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS, BUT IT COULD TAKE UP TO A MONTH.
HAVE TO BE ADMITTED?
ABSO-LUTELY.

I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE WHILE-
THERE ARE ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT UNTIL N:I-1!!
BUT
GET BACK IN BED!
YOU'RE CLEARLY IN PAIN!
.....!!
OTHERWISE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE THAN A MONTH OF BED REST.
I MEAN IT. YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED TO REST.

NO... DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR THIS.
I'M SO SORRY, YUTAKA.
I'VE GOT MY SCHEDULE UP 'TIL THE CONTEST MEMORIZED ANYWAY.
THIS IS A BIG EVENT, SO THE STAFF WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING. I'LL BE FINE.
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT...
STOP THAT!!
BUT I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY!!!
OWOW OWOW!!
.....

STAY WITH HER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. IF WE LET HER BE,
SHE'LL PROBABLY TRY TO GO BACK TO WORK



IF SHE TRIES TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL, FORCE HER BACK INTO BED.
ALSO, BE EXTRA CAREFUL ON THE DAY OF N.I-1.
O-OKAY...

BUT...
WILL YOU REALLY BE OKAY BY YOURSELF?

SHOULDN'T SOMEONE GO WITH YOU?
NAH, IT SHOULD BE OKAY.
YEAH...
I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN.
.....
ba-dump

CITY HALL
禁止
CREAK

IT'S HORIUCHI YUTAKA...
whisper
whisper
HORIUCHI YUTAKA...
.....
HEY THERE,
HORIUCHI YUTAKA...SAN, RIGHT?
PLEASED TA MEET 'CHA. I'M TOYONAGA MAKI FROM AL ALPHA.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
STOP IT, MAKI-CHAN.
SHRK
Hey!
I HEARD YA WERE PERFORMING, BUT I ADMIT I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YA HERE.
NOT THAT THAT'S A BAD THING, JUST THAT YOU'RE ALREADY PRETTY WELL KNOWN
.....
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THEY EVEN CHANGED THE RULES JUST FOR YOU
THAT I DON'T WANNA LOSE 'CAUSE PEOPLE FELT SORRY FOR YA.
HM?

WHY DON'T YOU JUST DROP IT?
YOU'RE BEING DISRESPECTFUL TO YOUR SENIOR
くすっ
SAYS YOU.
WHAT'RE YOU TRYIN' TO ACCOMPLISH?
I AM JUST TRYING TO HELP YOU
AVOID EMBARRASSING YOURSELF.
AFTER ALL, OUR PERFORMANCE TODAY MAY DECIDE OUR WORTH FROM NOW ON.
HMPH.
PRETTY SURE EVERYONE HERE ALREADY THINKS THEY'RE THE BEST, THOUGH.

T/N: Mathew 22:4.

JUST BEING HERE MAKES YOU THIS EXCITED? HOW PETTY.
KAIEDA MIHO...
None of yer business.
What're you starin' at?
TODAY, WE BATTLE ON A SINGLE STAGE
PERHAPS FOR THE LAST TIME.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOUR STAGE.
Weren't you tryin' to pick a fight?
Hey, look at me!!
.....
N:i-1
MJMJMJ
MJMJMJ
MJMJMJ

I HOPE SHE'S DOING OKAY...
IT'S STARTED BY NOW...
ガチャ
.....
I'M BACK...
...!
DID SHE FALL ASLEEP?
はっ!!
NURSE, RESTRAIN HER!!
GAH!!

Horiuchi Yutaka
AND NOW FOR OUR FIRST BATTER UP TO THE PLATE...
GIVE IT UP FOR SEAL!!
...NOW WHAT?

I SUPPOSE IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT I'M NERVOUS.
IT'S MY FIRST HUGE PERFORMANCE IN A LONG TIME...
THE BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH JUST WON'T GO AWAY!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
HOW DID...
HOW DID THE ME BEFORE DO IT?

は,
.....
SHE'S NOT HERE TODAY!
GET IT TOGETHER.
knock knock
COME IN...
CREAK
I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET DIARRHEA
URG
Gurgle Gurgle

IT'S NOE.
SO...
Semper
YOU'RE ONE OF THE MARINE GIRLS
Semper Fi
I ASSUME YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE FROM THE SAME AGENCY AS KAIEDA MIHO
YES.
THIS ISN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL,
BUT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
TALK TO ME?
I RESPECT HER, AND I WANT TO BE LIKE HER SOMEDAY,
BUT I JUST CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND
WHY SHE'S SO OBSESSED WITH YOU.

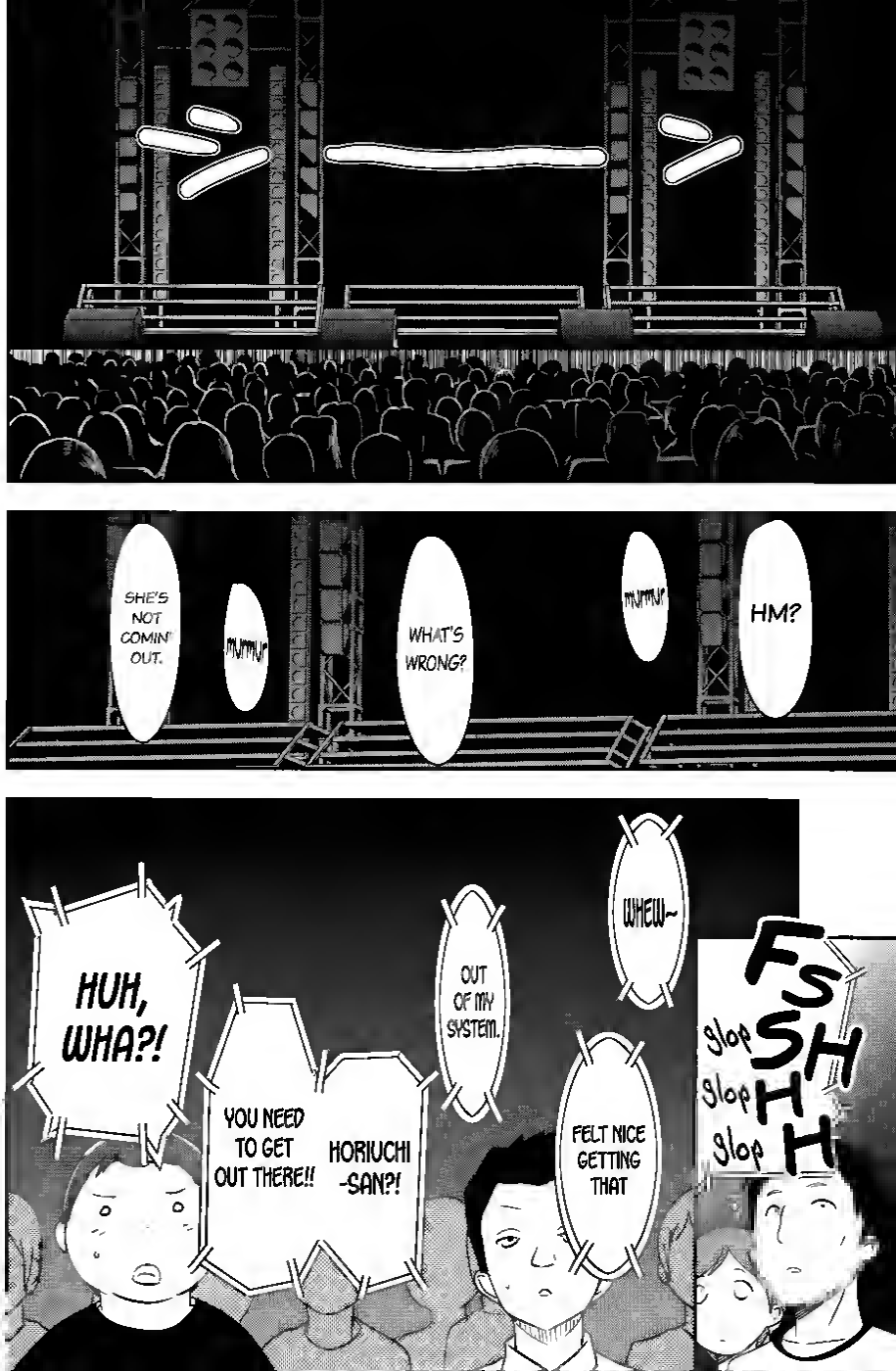
SHE'S OBSESSED WITH ME? THAT MIHO?
I KNOW SHE'S TRYING TO HIDE IT FROM US,
BUT EVEN AN IDIOT LIKE ME CAN TELL.
NO, IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE START.
I'VE TRIED ASKING HER ABOUT IT, BUT SHE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY TO DODGE THE QUESTION
SO I FIGURED I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND OUT SOMETHING BY ASKING YOU DIRECTLY
Semper Fi
BUT JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, MIHO-SAN ISN'T GONNA LOSE TO YOU!!
WE DON'T PLAN ON LOSING TO YOU EITHER!!
Semper Fi

WHY
HEY,
AM I TRYING TO BE AN IDOL?
IS BEING AN IDOL FUN?
?
WELL, DUH.
Semper Fi

I DON'T THINK I COULD BE DOING ANYTHING MORE FUN THAN THIS.
SO, WHY?
SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED THAT'S MADE ME MAD, UPSET, HURT...
I GOT INTO THIS WHOLE THING 'CAUSE I WANTED TO BE LIKE MIHO-SAN.
NOW SHE'S COACHING ME ON HOW TO BE A BETTER IDOL.
THANKS.
T-THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT ME!
HEY!!

HUH?
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME,
NOW I REMEMBER.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST WATCH ME ON STAGE?
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S FUN.
THAT'S WHY I CAN BE NUMBER ONE.
BEING AN IDOL.
BEING ON STAGE,

HORIUCHI -SAN, YOU'RE UP NEXT. WE NEED TO GET READY—
ANYWAY I SHOULD GO, JUST IN CASE!
.....
Horiuchi Yutaka
SHE JUST LEFT.
WHAT?! WHERE DID SHE GO?
AND NOW, I PRESENT TO YOU, THE WAYWARD IDOL RETURNED,
HORIUCHI YUTAKA!


SHE'S NOT COMIN' OUT.
MUMMUR
WHAT'S WRONG?
MUMMUR
HM?
HUH, WHA?!
YOU NEED TO GET OUT THERE!!
HORIUCHI -SAN?!
OUT OF MY SYSTEM.
WHEW~
FELT NICE GETTING THAT
FSSH
Slop
SHHH
Slop
Slop

STOMP
GEH!!
STOMP
TEST.
TEST.
TAP
TAP
IS THIS MIC STILL ON?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
HOLD ON...
STOMP
HURRY!!
STOMP
ぱっ
!
UH...
SORRY.

I WAS POOPING.
ポーン

G-GOOD ONE.
OKAY, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
スッ

BEFORE I GIVE YOU THE SONG... HERE, TAKE THIS.
SUB

A TITANIUM MIC.
I HAD IT CUSTOM-MADE FOR YOU.
IT'S LIGHTER THAN A REGULAR MIC, NO?
Oh wow
IT'S MADE FOR PERFORMANCES.
AND HERE'S THE NEW SONG.
IT'S CALLED...

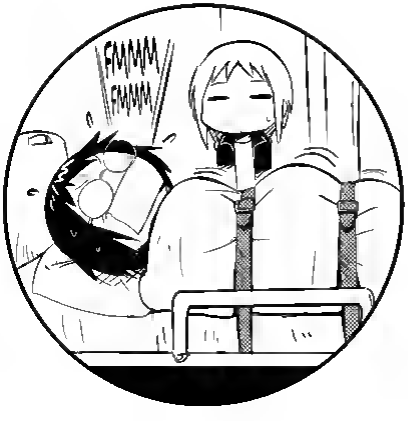
OVER AGAIN.

YUTAKA YORIUCHI
IS BACK !!
YUTAKA

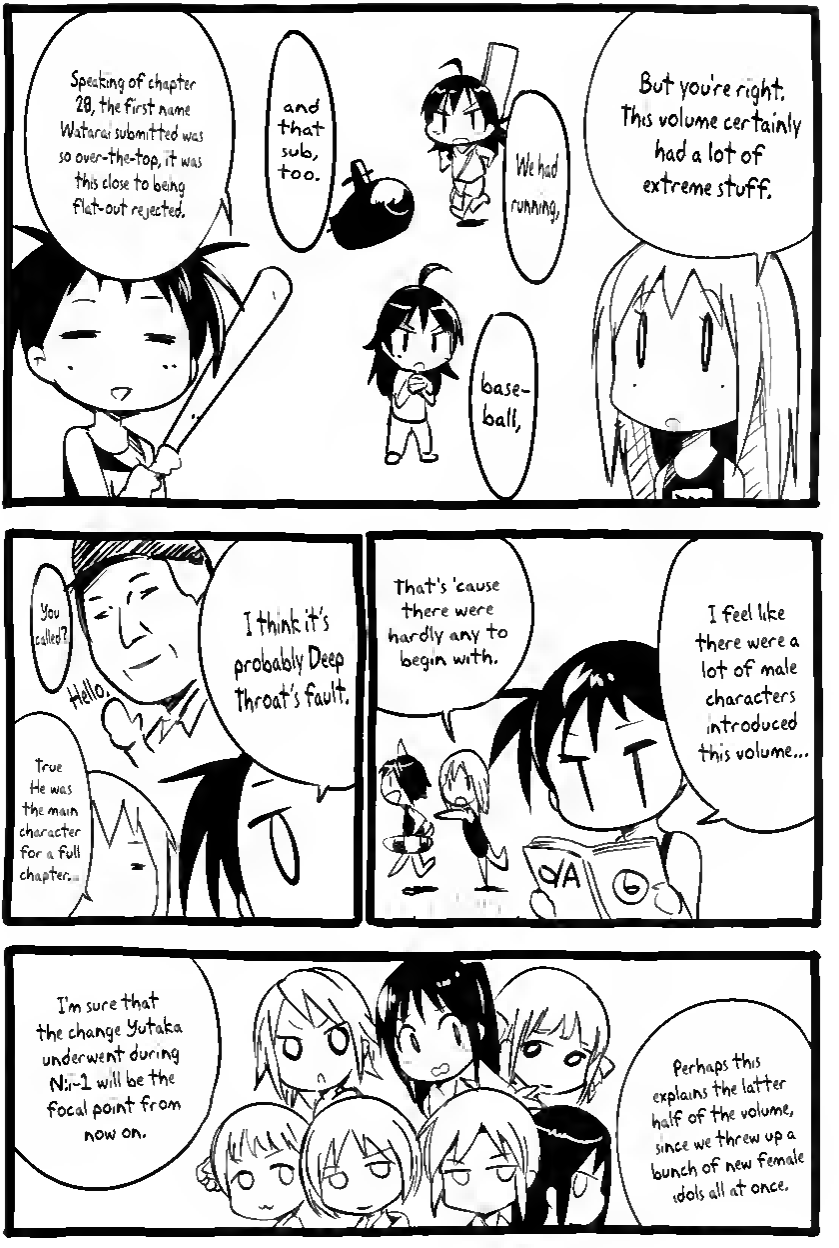
WITH A SINGLE TWIRL, SHE'S GOT THE WHOLE CROWD SPELLBOUND.

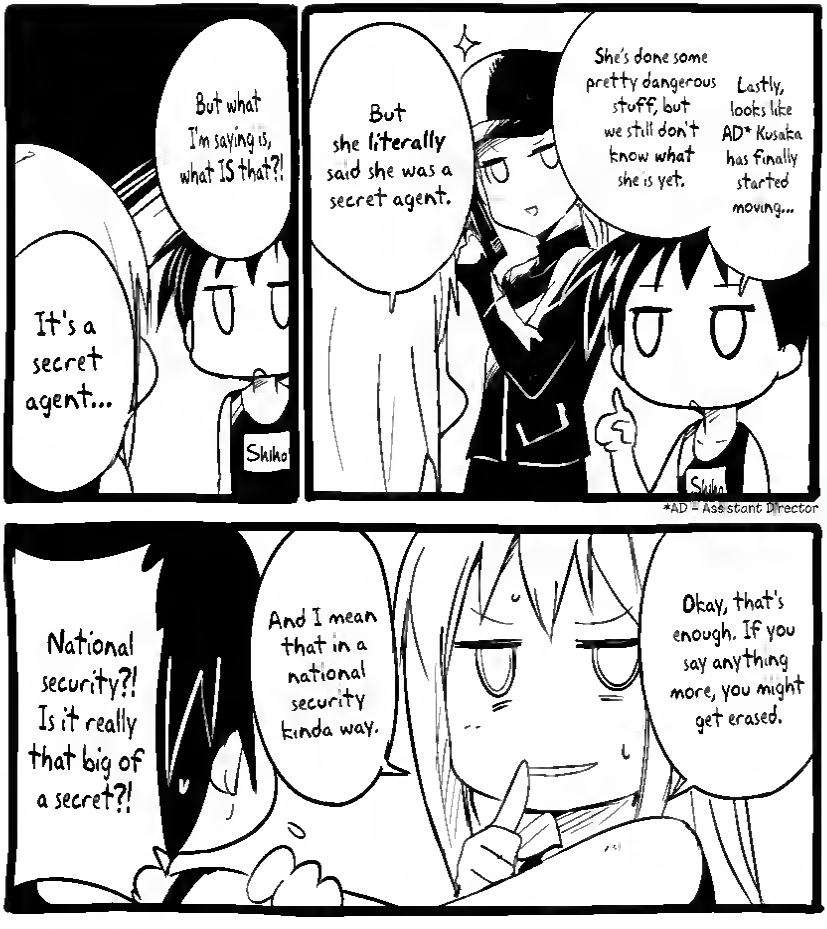
I'VE UTILIZED THAT MOVE BEFORE MYSELF.
INSTEAD OF MAKING HER FANS SHINE,
SHE IS AN IDOL WHO SHINES HERSELF, WHOSE FIRE BURNS LIKE THE SUN.
THOUGH SMEARED BY DIRT AND FILTH,
THOUGH BROKEN AND WOUNDED, SHE NEVER STOPS SHINING.

THAT IS HORIUCHI YUTAKA.
CHAPTER 30 END


FMMM
FMMM

Afterword
Broadcast Room
6
I'm a wolf, not a cat by the way.
Hey there!
Welcome back to The Afterword Broadcast Room~
What the heck?!
Why are we at the beach all of a sudden?!
Well, y'see...
Everyone else got to go to so many places this volume, so why shouldn't we?
ゴゴゴ
SHING
So you don't feel like going for the Broadcast 'Room' look anymore, huh?


Speaking of chapter 28, the first name Watarai submitted was so over-the-top, it was this close to being flat-out rejected.
and that sub, too.
We had running,
baseball,
But you're right. This volume certainly had a lot of extreme stuff.
You called?
Hello.
I think it's probably Deep Throat's fault.
True. He was the main character for a full chapter...
That's 'cause there were hardly any to begin with.
I feel like there were a lot of male characters introduced this volume...
I'm sure that the change Yutaka underwent during N:-1 will be the focal point from now on.
Perhaps this explains the latter half of the volume, since we threw up a bunch of new female idols all at once.


But what I'm saying is, what IS that?!
It's a secret agent...
Shiiko
But she literally said she was a secret agent.
She's done some pretty dangerous stuff, but we still don't know what she is yet.
Lastly, looks like AD* Kusaka has finally started moving...
Shiiko
*AD = Assistant Director
National security?! Is it really that big of a secret?!
And I mean that in a national security kinda way.
Okay, that's enough. If you say anything more, you might get erased.

Those who helped me

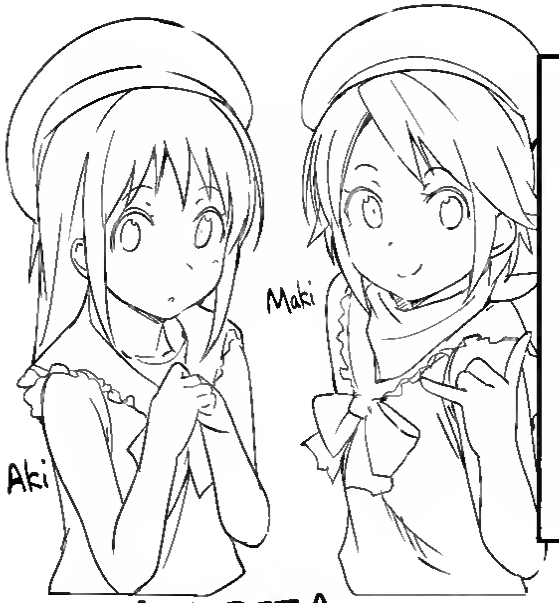
Sunabe Tooru, Sunabe Osamu

Editor

Kimura Kazunori

EXTRA
THE IDOLS OF N.i-1 SEAL

THE CONCEPT WAS TO HAVE "MACHINE IDOLS."
THEIR DANCING ABILITY SURPASSES ALL ELSE.
SOCOM PRODUCTIONS WAS ORIGINALLY STARTED UP
BY NEGISHI KOUICHIROU, A STAFF MEMBER OF KAMI PRO.
THEY ALSO HAVE A SISTER GROUP KNOWN AS "75 RANGERS."



THE CONCEPT WAS HAVING IDOLS THAT WERE KIND OF LIKE TAG-TEAM PRO WRESTLERS. BOTH OF THEM ARE 1ST YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL AKI ALWAYS HAS TO CLEAN UP ALL THE MESSES MAKI MAKES.

WHILE MAKI'S TENDENCY TO BE BLUNT AND INSENSITIVE IS ACTUALLY QUITE POPULAR, IT HAS RESULTED IN PEOPLE SPAMMING HER BLOG SO BADLY THE SERVERS CRASHED.

THEIR GENRE IS MAINLY TECHNO-POP.

AL ALPHA

YUURI KANAME

THE CONCEPT WAS TO HAVE AN INCREDIBLY INTELLIGENT AND WEALTHY UNIVERSITY STUDENT. SHE GOES TO A UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO. SHE'S ALSO FROM A PRESTIGIOUS FAMILY.

AFTER SHE GRADUATES, SHE PLANS ON QUITTING HER IDOL ACTIVITIES AND STUDYING ABROAD. SHE APPARENTLY HOPES TO ONE DAY BECOME AN ACTRESS.